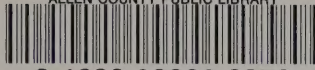


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Northumberland County, Pennsylvania

A History

by

H. J. McCafferty



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LOONEY GAP, PENNSYLVANIA

CHAPTER I

While this little brochure, for such only it is intended to be, is primarily and solely one book in a short historical treatise on Looney Gap, its people present and past, its industries, amusements, etc., with the addition of any other information or statement that the author, and the author only, shall deem of relevance to the question or subject, and wander back to the days when a white man was as big a curiosity to the natives as it would be for the present inhabitants of the village to witness, or at least that portion of the inhabitants that still persisted in the habit of going to bed, around noon. I should have said nothing, before coming to the opening of Chapter, August 7, 1929, to find a host of redskins, peering around their back yard, carefully and "unscientifically" considering what part of our possessions they will take over first. It can easily be pictured in the king's eye as about as wild and undivided an expression as can well be imagined. I will state here that the facts set forth in this little book are as accurate as I could possibly get them, and while there may creep into the story some slightly inaccurate data, it will not be the fault of the author. Just what the white people came into this section of the State, whether on exploring expeditions, or with a purpose of settling here, need never remain a matter of doubt and a subject of endless controversy, as John will have one side from which he can not be dissuaded. Johnny will be just as sensitive of a different one which he has that his opinion and which is irrevocable: Jack and Jan will each have one another and an entirely separate date for the event in which they will stick through the heavens' veil, and they will be willing, if not anxious, to swear to the truthfulness thereof on a stack of timber as high as the dome of the capitol at Harrisburg, if I may be permitted to use a statement of the late James Scarlett, of Leesville, Pa., in the new face one, or infamous, graft cases growing out of the another was a portion of that building, some years since. From the most reliable sources that I have been able to gather, and, as I have stated above, I have been as careful as possible to get the real truth. I could venture the opinion that the first white people to visit this section came from the Wyoming Valley some years before the close of the seventeenth century. Whether they were residents of the Valley or had come here with intention to settle, or to their migration or places where agricultural prospects were more alluring, for this was the only means of obtaining three full meals a day necessitated until after the beginning of the nineteenth century, is also a fact that is not clear. That they were here though is reliably authenticated by some letters shown me about seventeen years ago by a resident of Chester County, with whom I came in contact at Shamokin, and who assured me that there were letters that had come into the possession of his family from what they believed to be thoroughly reliable sources. He stated that his ancestors had settled in New York shortly after it had been taken possession of by the English, but would not undertake any definite statement as to the length of time they remained there. This gentleman had never been in this section of the State until 1916, when he was chosen as one of the delegates to the State Convention of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, of Pennsylvania, which was held in Shamokin

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LOCUST GAP, PENNSYLVANIA

CHAPTER I

While this little brochure, for such only is it intended to be, is primarily and solely put forth as a short historical treatise on Locust Gap, its people present and past, its industries, environments, etc., with the addition of any other information or statement that the author, and the author only, shall deem of relevance to the question or subject, and wander back to the days when a white man was as big a curiosity to the natives as it would be for the present inhabitants of the village to awaken, or at least that portion of the inhabitants that still practice the habit of going to bed, pardon me, I should have said retiring, before sunrise, on the morning of Sunday, August 7, 1927, to find a horde of red-skins prowling around their back yard, carefully and "conscientiously" considering what part of our possessions they will take over first. It can easily be pictured to the mind's eye as about as wild and uninviting an expanse as can well be imagined. I will state here that the facts set forth in this little book are as accurate as I could possibly get them, and while there may creep into the story some slightly inaccurate data, it will not be the fault of the author. Just when the white people came into this section of the State, whether on exploring expeditions, or with the intention of settling herein, must ever remain a matter of doubt and a subject of endless controversy, as John will have one date from which he can not be dissuaded; Johnny will be just as assertive of a different one upon which he has fixed his opinion and which is irrevocable; Jack and Jan will each have still another and an entirely separate date for the event to which they will stick though the Heavens fall, and they will be willing, if not anxious, to swear to the truthfulness thereof on a stack of bibles as high as the dome of the capitol at Harrisburg, if I may be permitted to use a statement of the late James Scarlet, of Danville, Pa., in the now famous, or infamous, graft cases growing out of the erection and equipping of that building, some years since. From the most reliable information I have been able to gather, and, as I have stated above, I have been as careful as possible to get the real truth, I would venture the opinion that the first white people to visit this section came from the Wyoming Valley some years before the close of the seventeenth century. Whether they were residents of the Valley or had come here with intention to settle, or in their migration to places where agricultural prospects were more alluring, for this was the only means of obtaining three full meals a day hereabouts until after the beginning of the nineteenth century, is also a fact that is not clear. That they were here though is reliably authenticated by some letters shown me about seventeen years ago by a resident of Chester County, with whom I came in contact at Shamokin, and who assured me that there were letters that had come into the possession of his family from what they believed to be thoroughly reliable sources. He stated that his ancestors had settled in New York shortly after it had been taken possession of by the English, but would not vouchsafe any definite statement as to the length of time they remained there. This gentleman had never been in this section of the State until 1910, when he was chosen as one of the delegates to the State Convention of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, of Pennsylvania, which was held in Shamokin

the week of August 15, of that year, and he brought the letters with him for the purpose of ascertaining their accuracy and comparing their contents with the real facts. One of them which bore the date of the "23rd day of the 8th month of 1783," and which I quote from memory, stated that: The territory is very hilly and unsuited for most part to agricultural purposes, though the soil in the lowland is deep and quite fertile. The hills, which are about twenty-five miles east from the forks of the Susquehanna River, where the Sham O Kin Indians make their home, are high, steep and rugged. Rev. Mr. Schuman, who is a member of our party, estimate height to be nearly half a mile. The air could not be better. The hills are covered with timber of very excellent quality, large girth and great variety, but it would be a very difficult task, if not an impossible one, to get it to any mart that I know, as there are no roads in the hills, the streams are small and rapid and the paths are extremely narrow and rough.

That William Markham, a Quaker, was in this vicinity as early as 1700 is evidenced by letters which he left, some of which bear dates as early as May, 1701. That he was not the first to traverse the territory is gleaned from a complaint he makes about former inhabitants in the following words, "I am much surprised and shocked at the wantonness of some of our people, who, when they can not, for any reason, remain in a home they have erected, will, before leaving, rase it to the ground lest another come that way and occupy it," which would indicate that Mr. Markham and his companions found evidence of previous occupancy of the territory. In another, apparently on the same subject, in a more favorable tone, "The savages are more considerate as they do not destroy their dwelling-places, which are usually shelters dug into the earth for some distance under a favorable ledge, which should be a good precept for the Christians to follow," and he comments upon the spaciousness of some of those dugouts. Whether the Mr. William Markham, spoken of above, is the former Governor of colony can not be positively asserted, as my informant would not commit himself, although he ventured the opinion, "for what it is worth," that such could be the case. That the destruction of those homes was the act of those erecting, assuming of course that they were erected by white people, while possible, is scarcely probable, may well be doubted, notwithstanding Mr. Markham's strictures. It is much more likely to be the work of the hostile Indians, who resented the encroachments of the white people with unconcealed bitterness, drove them off whenever possible and destroyed their homes, if they waited that long to apply the torch. Presumption that the Indian gave any advance notice of intended attacks on the intruders of his domain is a new one to me, and I question if there are any who will accept it as fact. Another proof that this territory was the home of white people early in the eighteenth century is offered in the following: What appears without any doubt to be the oldest cemetery in this neck-o-woods, in which white people were interred, was located on the brow of the hill between what is now Locust Gap Junction, on the Pennsylvania Railroad, and what was locally known as Brennan's farm, and in it, when I was a small boy, I saw a rough grave stone, of a material not to be found in this vicinity, on which was carved the inscription, "In Memory of Sarah (Porter) Bassage, Died Febuary 21, 1819, aged 34 years." Although there was nothing to indicate the place of death, it is safe to presume that it was in the immediate neighborhood. Some of the older residents of the time of which I now speak, in the early '70's, claimed that there had been grave stones in that cemtery that bore even an earlier date. One

of those whom I recall quite readily, was a Mrs. Brennan, an aged woman, who with her family occupied the farm. After chronicling the sentence about Mrs. Brennan, I went to the hill to find some trace of the old landmark, but my quest was futile as nothing was found to be of any service here and several hours were spent on the spot where I know it to have been located.

Now to my mutton and the story I started out to tell. The cutting of the timber in this section, as everywhere else, was the first essential to habitation, for till that was accomplished nothing could be undertaken. The cutting of the timber here was begun late in the eighteenth century as there is much evidence to be found that it was a prosperous industry as early as 1810. The heavier timber was "logged," that is one end of the timber was placed on low, heavily built, two-wheeled vehicle while the other end rested on the ground and pulled by horses. The route was through what is now Shamokin and Trevorton to the saw mills at Herndon, in the western part of the present county, and the lighter ones were rafted down Shamokin Creek to the Susquehanna River and thence to the same mills. Some time prior to 1826 the land hereabouts came into the possession of Isaiah Deppen, of Herndon, and he sent his brother, Abraham Deppen, here in 1826, to supervise the cutting and hauling of the timber. It was this man, Abraham Deppen, who laid the foundation, as it were, of Locust Gap, when he erected the first residence in the town in the forks of the Shamokin and Locust Creeks, but which were then called Big and Little Shamokin Creek, the cause of the change in the name of the latter will appear a little farther on in this story. To be sure the workmen who had been employed for some years previous to this time in the cutting of the timber had some sort of shelter from the elements, but they seem to be like the workmen, here today, gone tomorrow, and can no be classed as the beginning of the town. The home erected by Mr. Deppen was in the forks of the Shamokin and Locust Creeks, about three hundred yards east of the former and the same distance north of the latter. His son, George Deppen, of Trevorton, who was born in the house in 1835, who fifty years later, in the Fall of 1885, pointed the locality out to me would assign no reason for the selecting of the site except that it was probably the only spot in the neighborhood that was thoroughly cleared of the timber. Some may feel inclined to doubt the authority quoted, but as Mr. Deppen lived on the site for a number of years and had the earlier incidents connected with the home imparted to him by his parents and was able after many years to point out the locality, if not the spot, I am inclined to accept them as true, and while they may be a little incorrect in minor details, they are the most reliable we can obtain, and I pass them on to you. I doubt if they can be improved. With this house as a nucleus, about twenty-five other homes were erected the same year, but some distance farther east. There were several others built near the Deppen homestead; two blocks of four homes each were erected on the north side of Locust Creek just east of where the back road from Shamokin joins the Mount Carmel turnpike; several more were built a short distance east on the brow of what has recently been termed "Nead's Hill;" in addition there were erected five "log houses," so named from the fact that they were constructed of the rough logs cut from the hillside. One of those was erected on the site where afterwards stood the Patrick Hester homestead at Locust Gap Junction; the second was erected south of the present right of way of the Philadelphia and Reading Railway, and its foundation is directly under First street, leading from

the western terminus of Main street, where the former joins the Shamokin road, just north of the Mount Carmel Township High School; the third was erected near the Locust Spring colliery switch, and the Junction, at that time of Locust and Spring Creeks; the fourth was erected about one hundred yards south of the second named on the south bank of Locust Creek, and the fifth was erected near the base of what is locally known the "Indian Rocks," near the site of the present Union church. The above is not intended to enumerate the order in which they were built as that can not be determined at this late date, nor could it be learned if they were built by the company cutting the timber, or by individuals who desired to possess and occupy their own homes, but the best information is that they were built for the woodsmen.

One of those log-houses is still standing and tenanted. It is located just south of the county bridge spanning Locust Creek and the Mine Hill and Schuylkill Haven Railroad, on the east side of the turnpike leading from Helfenstein to the Shamokin-Mount Carmel highway, the former thoroughfare enters the bridge at the southern entrance. About twenty-five years ago, when the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company made a general, but very sadly needed, repairs of their houses in the town. Its rough exterior was hidden 'neath a covering of weather boards and the latter 'neath a covering of red paint. After this there seems to have been little, if any, building in the town until after 1835, when the possibilities of the coal industry began to attract the attention of capital. Between that date and 1856 many dwelling houses were erected and the town loomed as one of the most promising of the section, but some one threw a wrench in the machinery and brought things to a standstill with the town containing the largest number of dwelling houses of its career. After 1857, there were no addition to the homes, except an occasional "squatter," who "took chances," until 1870, when four double blocks were erected by Heim. Beck and Ryer, for the select employees of the Monitor colliery. Since that time all dwellings erected were by individuals, under leaseholds from the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company. In 1924, the Bastress Lumber and Construction Company erected two double dwellings on the site of the old Rafferty estate at the western end of the town, and in 1926, the Evert Lumber Company began the erection of a similar number on the McCarthy estate, two of which are still under construction.

The following explanation of the change of name of Little Shamokin Creek to that of Locust Creek, the present name, is given on the authority of George Deppen, mention of whom is made in the preceding paragraph. Some time in the Summer of 1826, while the home of Mr. Deppen's father was in course of construction, hordes of locusts swarmed into the valley with "the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble," as the prophet Joel once remarked. So numerous and troublesome did they become that the workmen, both in the woods and at the building were unable for several days to continue at their employment. In a few days they disappeared through the gap and into the valley of Little Shamokin Creek, lodged in the woods along its banks and continued the destruction of the trees and underbrush. When the pests died, their bodies fell or were washed by the rains into the waters of the creek and carried down stream, where they lodged amongst the boughs which had been cut from the timber and fallen into the channel of the creek. After a time they putrefied and became an offense to sight and smell that the name "locust creek" was op-

probriously applied to it, and the name, bestowed upon it in derision and malice, replaced the original and has stood through the ages until the present time and in all probability will endure. This could not happen today, for if the locust attempted their feat in this age of "progress," they would be more liable to petrification than putrefaction.

In closing this chapter, I feel that it is but just that I illustrate in a few words how law-abiding our citizens have been. I served one term as Justice of the Peace and in that term returned seven cases to the Courts, and two of those were of persons not residents. At one term of court Judge William M. Rockefeller, in his address to the Grand Jury, scoring the multiplicity of cases, remarked, "Were there a few more justices like the one in Locust Gap, the lawyers would starve." For years until new towns sprang up in the northern part of the township, no man, who had been elected to the office of constable, would qualify, and after the second year of my term as justice, I had to call in an outsider to perform the work in hand. An examination of the dockets of my predecessors reveal that those conditions were the same during their incumbency. A citizen of the town once remarked that, "Locust Gap is the best place, of which I know, to make a constable go to work for a living." There has not been a constable in the town for the past thirty-nine years, nor a justice of the peace for more than twenty-four.

During the week of August 7 to 13 we celebrated our one hundredth anniversary, and, notwithstanding that the town was crowded during the entire week, the only duty the police had to perform was to aid the visitors in finding parking space, and that was a task of some magnitude, but they did it and admirably. Should any person find a better town, just wire us at our expense, and we will investigate the claim. My last words are that a better Old Home Week was never observed by any town, and it is not said disparagingly either.

Never in the more than one hundred years of the town's existence, has a justice of the peace, or other civil authority, in Locust Gap, been called upon to perform the marriage ceremony for any of the town's young couples who made the plunge. The people of our town always considered this as too sacred a rite to be performed by any person save a duly ordained clergyman representing some Christian religion, and this notwithstanding the fact that one of the justices, desirous to break the record, had a standing offer of a free ceremony and a gift of a twenty dollars gold coin, as a reward to the first couple married by him. But four divorces have been granted to the residents of Locust Gap in the same period, and but one of the dissolved marriages was performed in the town. Thus proving that Locust Gap marriages, like everything else in the town, are genuine and lasting. Can any other town in the region match this? We are willing to waive the age limit.

CHAPTER II

THE BEGINNING OF INDUSTRIES

The first industrial enterprise in the town was a saw-mill which was erected in the western end of the town, in 1832, on Big Shamokin Creek, several hundred yards north-east of the spot where Locust Creek flows into that stream and directly north of the place known to our people as Hester's, and in railroad circles as Locust Gap Junction. Before proceeding farther with this story, it may not be amiss to make some explanation of the above statement lest some of my readers get a wrong idea of the location of the town at this time, and avoid, if possible, all carping criticism. At the time that this mill was erected the town, notwithstanding the erection of the log-houses previously mentioned, extended from Nead's Hill, though it was not so called at that time, to a point west of where the Philadelphia and Reading Railway crosses the Mine Hill and Schuylkill Haven Railroad, and what was then the eastern part of the village, was, at the time of its complete obliteration from the map by an explosion of a car of dynamite, being carried in a freight train, on the Philadelphia and Reading Railway, at 10:05 o'clock p. m., on Saturday, May 5, 1888, the extreme western part. The mill was erected by three brothers, Samuel, William and Joseph Casper, whose home was in the vicinity of Sunbury, but who had for some time previous been in the employ of Isaiah Deppen in the management of his saw-mill near Herndon. When the latter decided to dispose of the woodland owned by him in this territory, he offered it to the Caspers and they took it over. The brothers were not in any way connected with any of the firms conducting saw-mills then in operation in this section, all of which were located at greater or less distance from the scene of the cutting and the charges at the mill coupled with that of hauling the timber there and back, would in the opinion of the brothers, in a short time pay the cost of constructing a plant of their own, and they decided to erect it. The mill was first operated by a chain galley, the motive power for which was furnished by a windless propelled by horses driven around a perpendicular shaft to which the rigging was attached and the power thus furnished was augmented by the addition of a large windmill, such as can be seen today on any farm to furnish water for the farm, but this proving unsatisfactory was replaced later in the year with power furnished by a large dam, or reservoir, constructed on the creek, some distance above the mill, and the water conveyed by a sluice to a large water-wheel which moved the machinery. This was the "Casper's Dam" about which lingers so many fond memories of the yester years, because it was the favorite swimming hole and skating pond, during their proper seasons. In 1834, the mill was purchased from the Caspers by Ziba Bird, of Shamokin, who had been brought to that town from near Danville, about a year previously, by John C. Boyd, the founder of Shamokin, to assume the management and supervision of his extensive coal interests in and near that place, which industry was just then beginning to make a noise in the world and an air of promising success. On Monday morning, March 3, 1835, Mr. Bird repaired to the mill and personally supervised the cutting of the lumber with which he expected to erect a home for his family; in the afternoon of the same day, he drove the team of horses that hauled that lumber to the site on which the home was to be erected, and before he left the spot, he

set some of it in place. This was the first house built in the present borough of Shamokin and was located on Commerce, sometimes called Mount Carmel street, about midway between Franklin and Pearl streets. Mr. Bird's foresight in securing this mill can be readily appreciated when it is recalled that about this time, Shamokin and Mount Carmel became realities and the demand for lumber was very great.

THE BEGINNING OF THE COAL INDUSTRY

Before beginning with this chapter, which is intended to trace the mining of coal, I feel it is but just that I correct a rumor that has gotten into circulation, intentional or otherwise, matters not, that I recently claimed in a newspaper article that "Locust Gap is the oldest coal mining town in Northumberland County." I never made any such statement and any one possessing sufficient intelligence to know when he is hungry and enough education to read a plain sentence, will see, if he will peruse the article, that what I did say, and reiterate, was that, "Locust Gap is the oldest town in the Anthracite coal belt of Northumberland County." Quite a difference, isn't there? And any one who can not discern must be permitted to wallow in the everlasting gloom of his own ignorance. I suspect that before I get through, some of my readers, if such there be, will suspect me of having a very acute attack of "first" and "bests" in a lurid dream, or after a successful interview with my favorite bootlegger. Here is the first. How many of you know that the best coal to be found in the county underlies "our own little State of Locust Gap," as an applicant before a police civil service examination at Philadelphia once said, only that claimed all honors for Manayunk, from which he probably came. Boast, as that may appear to the reader, I wish to assure him that it is not put forth for any sentimental reasons whatever, but because it is an uncontrovertible fact. No claim to honors will be put forth by me in this volume that can not be sustained by what any unbiased judge would consider good evidence, and I feel I can be pardoned for claiming all those to which we are honestly and justly entitled. It is a free burning white ash coal which burns more uniformly and gives off more heat for a given amount of coal, than any other found in this locality; the coal found in other parts of the county, regardless of nearness or remoteness, not being so hard, burns more rapidly and does not give the same amount of heat for the same quantity of fuel. The earth underlying Locust Gap is known to be traversed by eleven of the seventeen veins authoritatively credited to this section of the Anthracite coal region, and ten of those have been worked. Those that have been worked, as far as I can get the information, are the Primrose, Holmes, (including the Church and Black Heath), the Mammoth (including the Crosby, the Lelar and the Skidmore), the Seven Foot, the Buck Mountain, Diamond, Orchard and Tracey. The Lykens has not been worked.

Although coal was known to underlie this section from the discovery of the black stone in Quaker Run, a short distance west by south from the present borough of Kulpmont, by Isaac Tomlinson, a Quaker, from which sect the stream was probably named, they being the first permanent white settlers in this territory, no attempt was made to mine it, if they did know how which latter statements herein will place in doubt. The discovery was made by Mr. Tomlinson on a Sunday afternoon in the Summer of 1790, as he was returning from Sabbath services at the home of a neighbor. I now beg permission to di-

gress for a while on the matter of mining coal, although that and the subject to be recited can readily be connected without receiving a "shock." Mr. Tomlinson was a consistent Quaker and the tenets of his creed, at that date at least, was opposed to the belief in coal or black stone, or whatever name by which it may have been known, so he passed on to his home after noticing the black substance in the bed of the creek, but, frugal man that he was, he secretly returned to the spot the following day and made better examination of the substance and, being convinced, from the news he had been receiving from Wilkes-Barre where the fuel had been successfully burned by Judge Jesse Fell some years before, he quietly gathered up the pieces he found and carried them to his smithy and hid them therein. This he continued to do for twenty years or until the winter of 1809-10, which was a long and extremely severe one, and before it had ended Mr. Tomlinson and his neighbors had exhausted the supply of wood they had stored the previous fall and the severity of the winter prevented replenishing, so he determined to brave the wrath of his co-religionists and burn it. An improvised fireplace was erected in his home by fixing a few straight rods of iron in the hearth and he found that he could burn the coal in this fireplace very satisfactory; that he obtained a more pleasing, lasting and intense heat, without the constant attention required by a wood fire, and that the fire would hold over all night, which, of itself, was a very decided advantage. His neighbors observing the advantages of the fuel soon followed suit. But this did not bring about the mining of coal by a darn sight. At this time you could not give the stuff away, if you had it in stock, and it was more than a decade after this that any progress was made along this line. About 1835 there was some attempt to mine coal for commercial purposes. The earliest mode of getting the coal from the earth was very crude and was in a manner after the plan of the shafts used today, but the lack of engineering knowledge on the part of those engaged limited them in size. No one it appears thought of driving a drift into the earth. The mines of those days consisted of a perpendicular, or nearly perpendicular, hole in the ground and hoisting the coal by a windlass. The lives of those mines naturally were short-lived, owing to the difficulty of keeping them clear of water, or of ridding them of what water did acculate, except by a hand-pump or by bailing, and as this was very unsatisfactory, when a mine had reached a depth rarely exceeding fifteen or twenty feet, it was abandoned and a new one opened. This continued until about 1840, or perhaps a little later. The coal thus mined was hauled to Sunbury or Danville, loaded on boats or floats and floated down the river to Columbia and transported thence to the points where it was destined. The opening of the railroads in this section somewhat facilitated the movement. Although the Mine Hill and Schuylkill Haven railroad was extended through Locust Gap to Locust Gap Junction, as we know it but which at that was known as Locust Gap, in 1860, it seems that it did not cause the revolution in the coal industry in the town that had been expected and it was not until nineteen years later that any collieries worthy of the name was opened. In 1855, the Locust Summit Improvement Company opened two collieries in the gap, between Shamokin and Locust Mountains. One colliery, named the Locust Summit, was located on the south side of the Mine Hill and Schuylkill Haven Railroad and the other, named the Locust Gap, directly across the track, and were as much alike as carpenter skill could make them. For this reason they were known to the people as "The Twin Breakers." The duplication was carried even

to the mines. The Locust Summit colliery opened a drift into Shamokin Mountain at the base and another about seventy-five feet, in a perpendicular height, farther up the mountain; the third was opened about five hundred yards farther east into the same mountain; the Locust Gap colliery opened three drifts into Locust Mountain directly opposite and on the same level as those of the Locust Summit into Locust Mountain.

The Locust Summit colliery was first leased to Anthony, Lloyd and Rosser by whom it was operated for almost five years, when a series of rapid-fire changes took place and he was not at all a poorly posted man on the happenings of the town, who could tell in the morning who were the operators. John Prout and Company, William H. Marshall and Brother; Bonsall and Whitney, and the Locust Summit Coal Company (for the second time), were in turn owners, or at least operators. Late in the year of 1869 the latter closed the mine and it was never reopened.

The Locust Gap colliery, after a short period of operation by the Locust Summit Coal Company, was leased to Hass and Bowen, of Shamokin, and successfully operated by them until 1867, when they relinquished their claim upon assuming charge of the Gap, now the Cameron colliery, at Shamokin. After a year's idleness it was taken over by Graeber, Kemball and Company, a Schuylkill County firm, and was continued in operation by them until they closed it down on the afternoon of Friday, March 31, 1871, to, as they reported at the time, make some necessary repairs to the breaker. The rumors at the time were loud enough for the operators to hear them, but there is no proof that they heeded them and all thought that there was a reason—there generally is. During the night fire broke out in the abandoned Locust Summit breaker and when it had spent its force both breakers were totally destroyed. The coal from the upper level and the drift on the east were hauled over land to the A. S. Wolfe colliery and prepared for market.

THE A. S. WOLFE COLLIERY

In 1863, A. S. Wolfe, of Philadelphia, and William H. Marshall, of Shamokin, under the firm name of A. S. Wolfe and Company, opened a colliery about one hundred yards west of where the Philadelphia and Reading Railway station is now situated, which they named for the senior member of the firm and which they continued to operate until late in 1869, when it was leased by Graeber, Kemball and Company, who had the previous year leased the Locust Gap colliery. They had only a water level drift from which to obtain coal, but in 1870, they sank a slope a short distance west of where the Saint Joseph's Roman Catholic Church now stands, and in 1871, the coal from one of the drifts, formerly connected with the Locust Gap colliery, enhanced their output. They continued to operate this colliery until it was abandoned, March, 1873, when they took over the newly opened Locust Gap colliery No. 2.

THE CREEK COLLIERY

In 1862, the Locust Gap Improvement Company opened a mine in the southern part of the town on what was called Spring Creek, and named it the Creek Colliery, which name was afterwards changed to Spring Creek colliery and later to Locust Spring colliery. It was operated for less than a year by Frank Parvin and Sons, who sold out to William H. and George Marshall, under the firm name of Marshall and

Brocher, who operated it until 1871, when it became the property of the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company, who had acquired the holdings of the Locust Gap Improvement Company in this territory. In 1878 the breaker was remodeled and enlarged and continued in operation until Monday, April 2, 1900, when the present Locust Gap breaker was opened.

THE MONITOR COLLIERY

In 1869, Richard B. Douty, of Shamokin, secured a lease from the Locust Gap Improvement Company, and began to open the Monitor colliery, in the eastern part of Locust Gap, but financial reverses compelled him to sell one-half his interests to A. A. Heim, of Shamokin, then engaged in coal mine operation at that place, and in a few months he was obliged to dispose of the remaining half to Beck and Ryer, also coal operators of the same town, and the firm Heim, Beck and Ryer, completed the colliery and began operations. They also opened a store in connection with the colliery, but I can not recall if the workmen were compelled to patronize it. It was in this store, managed by Conrad F. Ryer, that the first post office in Locust Gap was opened, February 4, 1870. After about one year, in September, 1870, the colliery was purchased by George W. and William Johns, Saint Clair, and the store was closed. This firm, under the name of George W. Johns and Company, operated the colliery until the expiration of the lease in 1895, when it was taken over by the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company, successors to the Locust Gap Improvement Company, who operated it for about five years when it was abandoned—and abandoned is no misnomer in this case by a number of points.

THE LOCUST GAP COLLIERY NO. 2

Late in the year of 1871, Graeber, Kemball and Shepp (Daniel A. Shepp, of Tamaqua, having become connected with the firm), operators of the A. S. Wolfe colliery, secured a lease from the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company, and erected what was then thought to be the last thing in breakers, at the eastern base of the Shamokin Mountain. Two slopes were driven on the tract and it was going "to last forever,:" but it didn't by a number of moons. The breaker began actual, though not continuous, operation, March 3, 1873, and soon developed to continuity. At an early hour on the night of Tuesday, October 5, 1875, a mysterious fire destroyed the breaker, which was at once rebuilt and operations resumed on Monday, March 6, 1876, and continued. It was taken over by the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company, about February 1, 1883. The later continued operation of the breaker until Monday, April 2, 1900, when upon the completion and opening of the new and large Locust Gap breaker at the southern end of the town, it was abandoned and dismantled. This only refers to the breaker as the slopes and drifts are still in operation and the coal therefrom is being prepared at the new breaker.

THE NEW LOCUST GAP BREAKER

Late in the last century the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company, which had taken over all the collieries in the town, decided, as a measure to economy, to erect a breaker that would be capable of handling the output of all of them. In keeping with this decision they erected the present breaker at the southern end of the town which began operations on Monday, April 2, 1900. Some important alterations have been made since the commencement of the operation,

notably the change in the tip house in 1806. The largest number of cars of coal dumped into the breaker up to this writing was on Thursday, April 14, 1927, when 1273 cars were dumped. It is estimated that this operation is capable of producing about 625,000 tons of coal annually, with 275 working days.

The first man hurt in the coal mines of Northumberland was David Derk, of Mahanoy Valley, who opened a mine in the vicinity of Shamokin in which on May 15, 1834, he suffered an accident in which he suffered a broken leg. While this is not a part of Locust Gap history, it is given for general information.

CHAPTER III

ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CONGREGATION AND CHURCH

It has been irrevocably settled beyond any question or doubt that Saint Joseph's Roman Catholic congregation, of Locust Gap, is the oldest religious organization in this section, both as regards date and continuity of service. It is not intended to infer that those, not of this faith, in the community, were not members of any religious denomination, but that they were not united as separate congregations nor did not as a body, even jointly, hold divine worship. In the earliest days of the town's history, the people of the Roman Catholic faith were obliged to attend divine services, whenever weather conditions made such a thing possible, at Saint Joseph's church, Ashland, or at Saint Edward's, Shamokin, and moreover were compelled to walk the entire distance. (Today their descendants, in far too many instances, are too frail, fat or forgetful to walk two blocks.) Shortly after his appointment as pastor of Saint Michael's Roman Catholic church, at Danville, in September, 1851, to which parish this territory then belonged, Rev. Michael Sheridan organized the present Saint Joseph's congregation, of Locust Gap, and began the holding of services here. Those, of course, for several unavoidable causes were irregular, and when he found it possible to come here, the congregation had to be summoned to service by messenger. There being no building, aside from the homes of the parishioners, in which those services could be held, they were utilized for the purpose. After the erection of the home of Martin Keenan, who purposely made one of the rooms more spacious than any in the houses already erected, all church services were held there. This house was erected on the north side of the turnpike leading to Shamokin, about five hundred yards east of the base of what is known far and wide as the "Yellow Hill," though I have never been able to discover any just or valid reason why it should have been so named, as it is not as yellow, nor is its mud as deep or as tenacious as some other places not far distant, by a darn sight. This house about sixty years ago was buried under the culm banks of Locust Gap colliery, No. 1, which operation passed out of the town's life somewhat mysteriously by the very old but always reliable, if equally questionable, smoke route. Beginning in 1859, upon the appointment of Rev. Edward Murray to the pastorate of Saint Michael's church, the service of the Mass was solemnized regularly on the second Sunday of each month. During the pastorate of Rev. Arthur McGinnis, who succeeded Father Murray in 1863, the services were held on the second and fourth Sundays. When the congregation of the Primitive Methodist church took possession of their own church, on "Watch Night," Sunday, December 31, 1865, the Catholics were given the use of the school building for their services. On Easter Sunday, April 8, 1866, a Sunday school was organized for the instruction of the boys and girls of the parish with Charles Breslin, Sr., William McCafferty, Patrick Murray, Bernard Breslin and Michael Corcoran as teachers, and thereafter Sunday School was a regular weekly service in the Catholic life of the community. The time fixed was 2:00 o'clock p. m., but a few years ago, Rev. John F. O'Donnell, pastor, advanced the hour to immediately after the 8:30 or Children's Mass, as it insures a larger and more regular attendance with the least inconvenience to the children. In 1866, upon the appointment of Rev. J. Joseph Koch, who had previously been located at Milton, in this

county, to the pastorate of Saint Edward's church, at Shamokin, of which he assumed charge on Sunday, September 9, of that year, Locust Gap, which up to that time had been a part of Saint Michael's parish at Danville, was attached to Saint Edward's parish, at Shamokin, and Mass was thereafter regularly solemnized on every alternate Sunday. The membership of the congregation grew quite rapidly and soon the school building was found to be inadequate to accommodate the growing congregation and in 1870, acting on the suggestion of their pastor they decided to erect an edifice of their own and began negotiations for a suitable plot of ground. Several plots on both sides of the town received consideration and the plot where the big red school, (we had outgrown the little red one), was afterwards built, was tentatively agreed upon, when the opening of the Monitor colliery and the erection of some dwelling houses with the hint of more, seemed to indicate the moving of the town still farther toward the east which apparently was its bent, and a plot was chosen on Main street, where the old A. S. Wolfe slope was sank. After work on the excavation had been commenced and progressed considerably the management of the A. S. Wolfe colliery informed the pastor that it was their intention to sink the slope and offered him the plot on which the church now stands, which he accepted and the work of excavating was transferred to the new site and that of construction followed as soon as possible. By Noveber of the same year the work had sufficiently progressed on the lower part of the structure to permit its use and on Sunday, November 6, the first Mass was solemnized in the basement, which the congregation continued to use until the completion of the superstructure early in the following year. The first Mass in the church proper was solemnized on Easter Sunday, 1871. On Sunday, August 27, 1871, the church which had been given the name of St. Joseph, was dedicated by the Rt. Rev. Jeremiah F. Shannahan, Bishop of the Harrisburg Diocese, who died at the Bishop's residence in Harrisburg on September 24, 1886. This statement is made to distinguish from Rt. Rev. John W. Shannahan, who succeeded to the bishopric in 1899, and was a brother to the first named. Later in the same year, 1871, it was attached to Saint Ignatius' parish, Centralia, but only for a short time as in 1872, it was again restored to Saint Edward's, Shamokin, where it remained until it was created a separate parish. On Corpus Christi, June 4, 1874, the bell which had been purchased for the belfry was placed in position. In August, 1878, the congregation of Saint Joseph's had grown to more than eight hundred communicants, exclusive of the Sunday School, which in the Roman Catholic Church usually includes only those members of the parish between six and sixteen years of age, and is attended only by such adult members of the congregation as may be necessary to conduct the classes, and it was created a separate parish with Rev. August Schleuter, as pastor. Rev. Father Schleuter assumed the pastorate on Sunday, August 13, of the same year. In the following year he erected the parochial residence and cleared a plot of ground, which he had purchased for the purpose, for a cemetery. On August 10, 1882, he was succeeded as pastor by the Rev. Thomas J. Flemming, who was possessed of ideas of his own on the rights and powers of the clergy, and who, had he chosen politics as a profession and be successful in securing public office, would have made the author of "public office is a private snap" a petty piker. During his pastorate he had the cemetery somewhat enlarged and in 1887, he had Saint Joseph's convent erected and the parochial school opened in September of that year with Sister Mary Columbia, a sister of Rev. Father

Hayes, of Centralia, as Mother Superior. On February 12, 1891, Rev. William J. Burke, a former Shamokin boy and at one time an altarboy in the church, was appointed pastor, apparently without any previous notice to the incumbent, who was confined to his bed with an attack of illness, and who was the following morning removed to the rectory of Saint Joseph's church, at Ashland, to recuperate. During a severe storm which swept over this section on the night of Tuesday, September 29, 1896, the church was so badly damaged that it was pronounced unsafe, and during the following year it was razed and a new and larger edifice erected. On September 18, 1899, Father Burke died at the parochial residence and was buried at Shamokin on Thursday, September 21. All business and industries in the town were closed on the day of the funeral. Rev. J. C. Foin, who had been assistant to Rev. Burke for some time previous to his death, was continued in charge pending the appointment of a permanent pastor, and ably conducted the affairs of the parish until the arrival of Rev. Arthur J. McCann, who was transferred from St. Columba's Church, at Bloomsburg, October 10, of the same year. In 1905, Father McCann had Saint Joseph's Hall erected just across the street from Saint Joseph's convent for the use of the people of the parish. Upon the appointment of Father McCann to the rectorship of Saint Michael's Church, Danville, he was succeeded by Rev. Charles J. Galligan, who at the time was pastor of St. Mary's of H. of C. Church, Lykens. Rev. Galligan assumed charge of Saint Joseph's on the evening of Tuesday, May 5, 1905, in the midst of a mission then in progress in the church, and when the Rev. Father McCann left town on the following Thursday, to take charge of his new post, he was escorted to the station and bidden God-speed by an outpouring of our people, Catholic and non-Catholic, as was exceeded only once in the of the town, (when the same people, almost seven years later, sadly followed the earthly remains of his successor to the same station enroute to New York City for burial). In 1911, Rev. Galligan had the church enlarged and much beautified, inside and out, and on Sunday, January 7, 1912, thrilled his congregation with the announcement that every debt of the parish had been liquidated and that they did not owe a cent except the usual expenses of the current month. Father Galligan died in the parsonage of Saint Joseph's Church, after a short illness, on the afternoon of February 22, 1915, and was buried in New York City on Friday, February 26, the funeral cortege leaving here the day previous. On the day of his obsequies every business in town, even to the schools of Mount Carmel township, were closed, and the people irrespective of class or creed turned out to pay their last respects to a man who was, without any doubt, the most respected and beloved that ever blessed the town with his presence. A non-Catholic remarked in the hearing of the writer on the day of the funeral, "There was but one Father Galligan and I never expect to have the honor of meeting another such man. He can not be replaced." Father Galligan was first County Chaplain of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, in Northumberland County, having been chosen to that office at the regular meeting of the County Board on Sunday, July 11, 1909, and continued to serve in that position until he was elected State Chaplain by the State Convention of the Order, at McKeesport, August 20, 1914, which office he held at the time of his death. After the death of Father Galligan the parish was in charge of Rev. Thomas J. McEntee, who had served as his assistant for some time previous, and in the discharge of the duties so suddenly thrust upon one so young, he exhibited such marked executive and administrative ability that reflected

great credit on him. Rev. John F. O'Donnell was transferred to Saint Joseph's from Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Harrisburg, early in March, 1915, and assumed charge on the 10th of that month. Father O'Donnell served as a member of the Army Examining Board of District No. 4, with headquarters at Mount Carmel, during the draft period for the World War. He continued in charge of the local parish until September 29, 1925, when he was appointed to Connewago, and he was succeeded by Rev. John A. Mahoney, of Milton, the present pastor. The following priests served our people as pastors since the founding of the congregation more than three-quarters of a century ago: Revs. Michael Sheridan, 1851; Edward Murray, 1859; Arthur McGinnis, 1863; J. Joseph Koch, September 9, 1866; E. T. Fields, Sept. 20, 1871; J. Joseph Koch, June 3, 1872; Clement A. Schleuter, August 13, 1878; Thomas J. Fleming, August 10, 1882; William J. Burke, February 12, 1891; Arthur J. McCann, October 10, 1899; Charles J. Galligan, May 5, 1905; John F. O'Donnell, March 10, 1915; John A. Mahoney, September 29, 1925.

The Assistant Pastors of the church, which I have not attempted to put in the order of their appointment as I was unable to secure it, were as follows: Revs. H. M. Hertzog, J. C. Foin, A. G. Kappes, Frank Monaghan, John J. Finnegan, James L. Shields, George L. Rice, (the two last named served during the absence of Rev. C. J. Galligan, at a hospital in the summer of 1909 and Rev. Rice returned two years later), D. M. Higgins, Frank J. McManus, (a Locust Gap boy), Matthew Scanlan, T. L. McEntee, J. J. Smythe, Timothy Handrigan, J. J. Smythe, John M. Nichols, Robert D. Hartnett, Carl Brady and Charles J. Tighe, the present assistant.

The young women of Saint Joseph's Parish who entered the Sisterhood are: Ellen Tobin, Mother M. Bertha; Elizabeth Tobin, Sister M. Valeria; Anna Moore, Sister M. Eugenius; Mary Moore, Sister M. Rosella; Anna O'Brien, Sister M. Cornelia, (deceased); Margaret Boyle, Sister M. Prudentisimo; Agnes McDonnell, Sister M. Marcellian; Margaret Donnelly, Sister M. Clair Margaret; Stella O'Neill, Sister M. Julien; Mildred Cress, Sister M. Remo; Jennie Bradley, Sister M. Patricia, (deceased); Mary Cannon, Sister M. Damien; Mary O'Donnell, Sister M. Berthelda; Sabina O'Donnell, Sister M. Editha; Mary Castimore, Sister M. Angela; Loretta Metzinger, Mother Aesenia; Caroline Metzinger, Mother M. Amelia, (deceased); Jane Heffron, Sister Jane De Chantel, Leavensworth, Kas.; Anna Crowe, Sister M. Eugenia; Gertrude Brecker, Sister Mary, (deceased); Anna Manley, Sister Mary Jerome; Ellen McIntyre, Sister M. St. Catherine; Gertrude Omlor, Sister M. Charles.

If I have inadvertently omitted any, I am very sorry, as I did my best to get a complete list.

THE PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHURCH

The Locust Gap Union Church, in which the people of the Protestant faith worship, is the descendant of the Primitive Methodist Church, which was organized here on Sunday, April 10, 1853. In the early days of the town's existence, those professing the Protestant faith, like their Catholic neighbors, were obliged to travel to Ashland or Shamokin when they desired to attend divine services. On the date named they met at the home of Thomas Bevan, which from the best information I have been able to secure, was the most western house of those located a short distance east of the spot where the back road from Shamokin joins the Shamokin-Mount Carmel highway near the

base of the Yellow Hill, and organized the Primitive Methodist Church of Locust Gap. Mr. Bevan was chosen superintendent of the Sunday School connected with the church, and Aaron Klinger, secretary. Mr. Bevan continued in the position of superintendent for the following thirteen years, or until his removal from town, when he was succeeded by Michael Lukens. All Sunday school sessions were held at the home of Mr. Bevan, but the other meetings, i. e. teachers' meetings, mid-week prayer meetings, etc., were held alternately in the homes of the other members of the Sunday School. Mr. Lukens, who came here early in 1863, as confidential clerk for Frank Parvin and Company, at once became active in affairs of the Sunday School and soon began a movement for the erection of a church. Through the influence of his position with the coal company he was successful in securing a plot of ground on which to erect the edifice. After the mid-week prayer meeting at the home of Mr. Lukens, the question of erecting a church building was taken up and discussed. The discussion resulted in the adoption of the following resolution:

"Resolved, That a school house be erected for the purpose of holding meetings and Sunday School."

The work was begun in the Spring of the following year and while the records of the Sunday School for the interim are replete in regard to holding of the various services of the congregation, there is not a line to be found in regard to progress being made in the construction of the building. The first services held in new church was on "Watch Night," Sunday, December 31, 1865, when services appropriate to the occasion were held at 7:30 o'clock p. m., with Mr. Lukens in charge. The church was located on the south bank of Locust Creek at the base of the Shamokin Mountain, about five hundred yards west of where the county bridge spanning that stream now stands, and was known to the people as "The Stone Church," because of the material of which it was constructed. Regular and largely attended services were conducted by the congregation for the following three years, but for some inexplicable cause the church was closed at the conclusion of the regular services on the evening of Sunday, January 30, 1869, and was never reopened for religious services by any denomination, although a fairly large number of people professing the Protestant faith remained in the town. While several likely reasons have been advanced by those who should know, the most plausible of them was the falling off in the membership of the congregation due to the removal of the people from town, principally to Mount Carmel, which was general about this time. There also appears to be a cessation of all services by them for the next five years. The waters of the creek gradually washed away the bank of the stream fronting the church property and heavy rains in April, 1873, caused an exceptional high flow in the creek that the earth supporting the north-east corner, and a few days after, on Saturday, April 12, that portion of the structure collapsed. What was left fell into utter ruin and a few years later disappeared beneath the culm and ash banks of Locust Gap colliery No. 2, but if the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company continues to "repair" the highways of Mt. Carmel township with red ashes, it will, like Tut's tomb, again appear to public view. All the records, books and other religious property of the church were placed for safekeeping in the manse of the Primitive Methodist church on Hickory street, Mount Carmel, where they remained until the organization of the Locust Gap Methodist Sunday School, on Sunday, April 12, 1874, they were sent back and given to them. This Sunday School continued to function until Sunday,

January 2, 1880, when the congregation because of the number of other denominations that had affiliated themselves with it, changed its name to that of The Locust Gap Union Sunday School. The change in name does not appear to have been very satisfactory, for on Sunday, March 6, 1881, the latter name was dropped and the original name adopted. This action on the part of the majority denomination seems to have occasioned much internal dissatisfaction in the membership and those who felt that they had been slighted by the change began to fall away. So great was the loss in membership that within six weeks it became plainly evident that total disruption was inevitable, and on Sunday, April 17, those members, who still retained standing in the church, voted to disband. The books, records, etc., were taken to a church in Mount Carmel, the name of which I have been unable to obtain, for safe keeping. For the next four years the adherents of the Protestant faith in Locust Gap had no church organization. In the summer of 1885, Rev. J. Shindle, of the Grace Lutheran Church, of Mount Carmel, held a series of meetings in the Locust Spring school house and on Sunday, August 9, 1885, Saint John's Evangelical Church was formed with the following officers: Lewis Karbley and Frederick Yentsch, Elders; Henry Carl, Benjamin Thomas and Gideon Fertig, Deacons. The church for some unknown reason was destined to a very short life and disbanded early the following year and the books, records and library were taken to the Lutheran church at Doughtyville, where they remained for more than five years but were returned to Locust Gap upon the organization of the Locust Gap Union Sunday School, on Sunday, October 18, 1891.

For almost fourteen years all services of the congregation were held in the Locust Spring school house. In 1914, the church had grown to such numbers that they found their quarters too small, and in addition to this it became known that the Mount Carmel township school board, the owners of the building, contemplated the erection of a new school to house all the teachers and pupils and the abandonment of the two then in use. After the close of the regular services on Sunday, June 7, 1914, a meeting of the entire membership was held to consider the question of erecting their own house of worship. A lengthy discussion of the matter ensued without any definite action and an adjournment was taken until Friday, June 12. At the adjourned meeting the congregation decided upon the erection of the church and appointed a building committee with Charles Klingerman, president, and Frank Bergstresser, secretary. John Klinger and William E. Driesbach were appointed a committee to secure a site "near the old band hall." This was secured in July and ground was at once broken and the work pushed with all possible speed. It was completed early the following year and was dedicated on Sunday, February 14, 1915, by the Rev. Dr. Arthur W. Spooner, pastor of the Presbyterian church, of Mount Carmel, assisted by Rev. William A. Shoemaker, retired, of Mount Carmel, who was at the time serving as the pastor of the church; Rev. Albert Gonsar, pastor of the Grace Reformed church; Rev. A. L. Dillinbach, pastor of the Grace Lutheran church, both of Mount Carmel, and the Rev. George Johnson, of the Dickinson Seminary, Williamsport. The congregation has now reached a membership of one hundred thirty-five which belong to five denominations, namely: Methodist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Reformed and United Evangelical. The pastors of the church since its formation are: Revs. Davis, Ruth, Dougherty, Brunstretter, Sugart, Shoemaker, Greenfield and Roberts, the present pastor.

THE SCHOOLS

There is much evidence to the effect that the Quakers and others, who had settled in the section between Big and the Shamokin and Locust Mountains, in the early 1780's, early established schools for the education of their children. Those schools like all the schools of that period, almost half a century before free public schools were seriously advocated, much less adopted, were pay schools, which means that the teacher received a fixed remuneration for each pupil who attended, which sum was paid by the parents, in addition to which he received his "board" which was provided by each family, patronizing the school taking the teacher into their home for a specified length of time each season and furnish him with food and sleeping quarters. Where this was not done, as for instance if the teacher maintained his own home in the neighborhood, the rate per pupil was increased. Or as a Dutchman would put it, "I pays you \$10 and eats you, or I pays you \$15 and you eats yourself." The term ranged from six to eight weeks of five and one-half days each in mid-winter. This continued to be the only system of education in this section until 1841. When the first school law in Pennsylvania was enacted, April 1, 1834, it was not compulsory on the several school districts, its provisions being inoperative until the people of the district accepted it at an election. At that time this territory was a part of Little Mahanoy township, which then extended from the eastern line of Mount Carmel township to the Susquehanna River and the majority of them were opposed to free schools. When an attempt was made in 1834 to adopt the free school law for the district, it was defeated owing to the overwhelming vote cast against it in the Mahanoy Valley, where but eight men supported the principle. Two other attempts to adopt it, in 1835 and 1836, respectfully, also failed for the same reason, although the affirmative vote in the Valley increased one at each succeeding election, not a very encouraging perspective, you'll admit. The creation of a new township was then decided upon by the proponents of free schools. When the new township, which was named Coal, was formed in 1837, it included the present Coal, East Cameron, West Cameron, Mount Carmel and Zerbe townships. and it soon dawned upon the friends of the system that they had not yet gotten rid of all its enemies by a great deal and that an attempt to accept the school law of 1834 and establish free schools was likely to result in its defeat. But as always is the case in this country, when a crisis arises a man capable of coping with it arises with it, and in this case there was no exception, for a Moses arose from the ranks of the friends of the system and proposed that "for school purposes, the township be divided into North and South Coal." Both sides, fearful of the other, readily accepted the plan and at an election held in 1839, the North district accepted the free school law, while the South rejected it. and the former at once began preparations to carry it into effect. Among the schools decided upon was "one at Locust Gap." This I find was erected near Locust Gap Junction, of today, which at that date was Locust Gap, and was completed in 1841, but I have been unable to secure any detailed description of the building. This seems to have sufficed for the needs of the community for six years, when a larger building was erected on the Reading Turnpike about mid-way between the Red Bridge and the present village of Dooleyville and was intended to serve the entire section, including the present Mount Carmel.

By 1850, Locust Gap must have grown considerably and extended farther toward the east, for in this year it was found necessary to

erect a school building in the town. This was a one story frame structure, 60x30 feet, and was erected about one hundred yards north of where the county bridge now stands, which all will admit was a fairly central location. This building was erected by Coal township, which was four years before Mount Carmel Township was organized. After the erection of Saint Joseph's church, in 1871, it was converted into a two-room building. In 1861, a single room frame building was erected on the hill near the base of the "Indian Rocks" for the convenience of the smaller children residing in that section of the town. In 1873, a two-story school building was erected at the western end of Church street, and the one near the county bridge was abandoned, but the one near the "Indian Rocks" was continued in use. In 1885, this latter building was found to be inadequate to the demands made upon it and a new and larger school was decided upon. The school board condemned the grounds of the base ball club and erected a one story two-roomed building. This with the one at the western end of Church street was abandoned in 1919, upon the completion of the Mount Carmel township High School, which houses all the grade pupils of the town and the High school pupils of the township. About 1915, a part of the "free" school system was abandoned, but not as concerns the pupils, as far as my information goes. If such is the case, it has not yet become public property.

SAINT JOSEPH'S PAROCHIAL SCHOOL

Saint Joseph's Convent, in which the parochial school of the town is conducted, was erected in 1887, but on Sunday, February 26, 1888, it was destroyed by fire which broke out about 8:15 o'clock a. m., while the occupants were attending Mass in the church adjoining. It was at once rebuilt and has since been in use.

LOCUST GAP FIRE COMPANY

How the Locust Gap Fire Company was formed and the history of the organization was told to the author by residents of the town, who thought it would prove interesting to readers.

"The organizing of a fire company in the Gap was brought about by a number of young men, who were eager to secure a meeting place and also a place for social quarter," one resident of the town explained.

"Prior to the organization of the fire company, this group of young men met in an old stable on Spring Side, being very active in sports of all kinds," he said, "their favorite pastime was shooting live bird matches and a familiar saying heard whenever the boys could win a match was 'pay day at the hut!'"

"As times advanced, several members of the group thought that by organizing a club they could secure a charter and then obtain permission from the Reading Company to erect a building.

"The Reading Company," he continued, "built a two-story frame building for the company in 1906."

The first officers of the organization were James Magrady, president; William Beach, vice-president; Al. Klinger, secretary; P. J. McAndrew, treasure; F. J. Bergstresser, chief engineer; John Klinger, marshal, and Peter Veith, assistant marshal.

A two-wheel gig with hose was the first apparatus owned by the company. This was later cast aside and a larger and better equipped cart was secured although this, too had to be drawn by the fire laddies.

In 1907, members took possession of their new home and in order

to celebrate the occasion a big demonstration was held. It consisted of a parade in which fire companies from Mount Carmel, Ashland and Shamokin participated, being one of the largest ever held in Locust Gap.

It was in March of this year that the company contracted for the purpose of a LaFrance fire truck fully equipped at a cost of \$10,650. Of this amount, \$6,000 was paid off, the money being raised by contributions, picnics and other social affairs, leaving a balance of \$4,650 to be paid. Old Home Week was held and the balance was paid.

Present officers of the company are F. J. McDonnell, president; P. J. McAndrew, vice-president; J. A. Magrady, treasurer; Joseph Shipp, secretary; Frank Bergstresser, chief engineer; George Klinger, foreman and chief chauffeur, and Peter Veith, chief marshal.

THE ANTHRACITE BOARD OF TRADE

The coal interests, or operators, apparently, were the first to sense fully the advantage of organization for mutual protection, about twenty years after the collapse of the Bates union. This organization was formed about 1865, by ten mining concerns. At the outset I think it is but proper to state that the land owner was not always the coal mine operator, and that the words are not at all synonymous. The owner of the land was not, at all times, willing his money in a coal mine operation, that might result in the total loss of both, and the prospective operator was adverse to putting his money into the land. Both elected to play a safer game and thereby prevent total loss by either. The plan generally adopted was for the owner of the land to lease it to the fellow who was willing to take a chance, on a fat rental for the time the mine was in operation during the year, or on a royalty basis, that is the payment of a specified sum for every ton of coal taken from the mine and in some cases the operator was to attend to the payment of all taxes that may be assessed against the property he occupied. In the latter was the nigger in the wood-pile, or more properly speaking the coal-mine. The fellow who devised the last named feature of the royalty "lease" was a past master in the art of "frienziend finance" as the term is understood today. The first named method had the semblance of being honest, but the latter was about as contemptible a scheme to rob the landowner as could be concocted by any of Satan's imps. Even Franklin B. Gowan is said to have denounced it, and when that is said, nothing can be added to its infamy, and no apology can detract from its ignominy. Gowan's denouncement can well be doubted in view of the holdings of his company, secured by this very means. After paying the taxes for a number of years they claimed the land. Where the royalty operator did not turn out a thief, there was no opportunity to do so, and this method of seizure was reduced to a science by the first president of the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company, of whose ilk the Scotch poet wrote:

Poor silly wretch has damned himself

To save the Lord the trouble."

Many of my readers well remember the many "possession" houses that dotted the coal region some years back, and which had their beginning and sole aim in the plan to seize the land on which the mine was located. Three of them were at one time a part of our "suburbs." After the close of mining in the winter of 1865 and before the resumption the following spring, some far-sighted fellow amongst the operators evolved an organization of the operators to be known as "The Anthracite Board of Trade." This idea has also been attributed to Gowan,

but this is not true as it was at least five years before that individual's appearance in the coal business. This body is what has been generally designated by the people of the coal region as "The Coal Exchange," but is today officially known as the Anthracite Operators. This mention is made here because all the mines in Locust Gap were members and took part in its acts.

LABOR ORGANIZATIONS IN LOCUST GAP

Though not making so much ado about the matter as some of our more populous, pretentious and blatant neighbors, whose tooting of their own horns seems to have become a dangerous obsession to many of them, for any well versed man of medicine will advise you that the continuous use of hot air is not conducive to healthy lungs or longevity, Locust Gap can always point with pride, but not view with alarm, and as a rule we are Democrats, to her stainless record as a labor union town; in fact, we can without question lay claim to being the first town in Northumberland County, that was affiliated with an organized labor union. There I go again. But you can not truthfully assail its validity. By this time it seems to me that it was a good thing for some of the towns that were "borned" before we were or they would have had a precarious existence, if they survived infancy.

While it does not appear that the Bates' union of the late 40's which was organized in Saint Clair, got a foothold this far north of its place of birth, this was the first labor union in the Anthracite coal fields, and has all the best of the argument when it makes the claim that it was the first in the United States, if not in the entire word (some claim, is it not?) I have before me the remnants of what appears to be the minute book of a labor group as early as 1856, although the book would indicate that it had been used for some time previously, as those records begin with "page 117 of the committee's records" to quote the words written across the top of the page. Under date of March 12, 1858, presumably before the resumption of the collieries after the winter suspension, for the collieries in those years did not work during the winter months, nor for many years afterwards, I find an entry to the effect that a committee consisting of Charles Weightman, John Rhoades and Bernard Cannon, Sr., representing the Locust Summit colliery, met with a committee consisting of Edward McGinley, Henry Sharpe and Martin Keenan, representing the Locust Gap colliery. Several lines are here undecipherable, but a few lines farther on I find, "we talked over and reached a satisfactory agreement as to the manner in which the men working at the Locust Summit and Locust Gap collieries will work in harmony with each other during the coming year and respect the rights of each other during the same length of time." A copy of the agreement is not of record but it is written that "the agreement was written in duplicate and a copy given to each," presumably each committee. The record is signed by Henry Rousch, secretary. That there was some uniform co-operation between the collieries hereabouts, is evidenced by an entry on page 121 of the same book. The first part is missing, but at the top of this page I find, "motion, Locust Gap, Locust Summit, Rough and Ready and Stuartsville; against the motion Locust Mountain, Green Ridge, Coal Ridge and Coal Mountain" and the statement by the president that the motion was lost by reason of a tie vote, and that the meeting adjourned to meet at Mount Carmel, on Saturday, April 9, 1858, at 7:30 o'clock p. m. All further information is unreadable.

THE WORKMEN'S BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

Afterwards The Miners' and Laborers' Benevolent Association

Late in the forenoon of Tuesday, October 19, 1869, there alighted from a train on the Mine Hill and Schuylkill Haven Railroad, at its station in town, a tall, erect and pleasant faced man, whose manner and bearing marked him as a person of more than ordinary intelligence, though his carriage was not of the swaggering or unpleasantly vulgar type. The "station" at that time was the railroad crossing then situated directly under the present county bridge across that road and Locust Spring Creek. After strolling up and down the railroad in the vicinity of his landing, for a short time he approached several young men who were seated on the decaying ruins of a sawmill that was situated alongside the railroad track just in the rear of where the Mount Carmel Township High School is now located and engaged them in conversation. After a brief talk all arose and escorted the stranger across the public highway to where a larger group of the town's citizens were congregated under the protecting boughs of a clump of scrub oak trees whiling away the time in a sociable game of forty-five or euchre, and James Meehan, afterwards a resident of Mount Carmel until his death, one of the escorting party introduced the newcomer. Messengers were dispatched to other sections of the town for the other citizens and soon "the green," as it was called was a seething mass of humanity. The visitor was about to address the assemblage when the public school situated close by dismissed for the noon intermission, and he was requested to "wait a minute." Patrick Murray, the president of the township school board, repaired to the building and gave the teachers, Frank C. Butler and Miss Ellen Hester, a half-day's vacation and summoned the assembled citizens to occupy the building. When all were inside and order restored John Siney, of Saint Clair, for the stranger was none other than the president of the Workmen's Benevolent Association, of Schuylkill County, addressed them on the merits of that organization, and before the meeting dispersed, they had formed a branch of the organization, with Edward Spotts, president; Patrick Murray, vice-president; William McCafferty, secretary, and Edward Thomas, treasurer. This was the first bonafide labor organization in Northumberland County, deny it if you can. The organization thrived and maintained such a closed shop condition at the collieries here that would make the heart of any union leader beat a double quick vibration today. It went to its death at the end of the strike on June 29, 1875. Mr. Meehan was accorded the honor of signing the roster as the first member of the Union in Locust Gap.

THE KNIGHTS OF LABOR

This organization, being opposed, as it was, by the Roman Catholic Church, never made much headway in this community, although a branch of it was organized here on September 12, 1877, and led a rather precarious existence for about three years, when they turned in all goods belonging to the parent organization and disbanded. It again became more or less a labor factor in this place, I am speaking for Locust Gap only in this statement, after the convention of The Miners' and Laborers' Amalgamated Association, in Pottsville, November 25, 1886, but as that in my estimation has a closer contact with the life and actions of the latter, I will reserve it for my article on that organization, which follows.

THE MINERS' AND LABORERS' AMALGAMATED ASSOCIATION

Early in August, 1883, a man much resembling John Siney, the founder of the Workmen's Benevolent Association, arrived at the Locust Summit Hotel, registering as "George Harris, Reynoldsville, Jefferson County, Penna.," and communicated to the proprieter, John McDonnell, Sr., the object of his visit, and asked if the latter thought the matter could be put across, to use a slang phrase of today. He did and added that he also thought the time was opportune, and that evening seven young men met Mr. Harris in the parlor of the hotel and listened to his proposition, and agreed to aid in the work. Two evenings later, Thursday, August 9, 1883, there met in the Locust Spring school house, then located at the base of the "Indian Rocks," and in the rear of where the Union Church now stands, and which at the time was about as private and isolated a building as one would wish, twenty-eight citizens of the town met with Mr. Harris, and organized the first branch of the Miners' and Laborers' Amalgamated Association in Northumberland County, with Edward D. Brennan, president; Michael McHale, vice-president; Richard Doyle and H. J. McCafferty, secretaries, and Hugh Thomas, treasurer. The selection of the various committees was deferred until the membership more nearly represented the workmen of the town. Little did those present reckon the length of the postponement, for notwithstanding earnest efforts of a number of those affiliated with it, the organization began to lose from the beginning and at the end of the first six months the membership had dwindled to twelve members who steadfastly stuck to their job. Mr. Harris was brought here a number of times and although he was always greeted with an audience that would cheer the heart of those twelve members and raise visions of a powerful organization, the next meeting would find the "twelve apostles" alone in their vigil. This continued for slightly more than a year, when by that mysterious underground route by which much information is relaid to the employes of some proposed action on the part of the employers, not all of which is involuntary by a long shot, a rumor gained circulation early in May, 1885, that a ten per cent reduction in the wages of the mine workers was due during the summer. This stirred the men to action and Ivor D. Jones, Minersville, president, and Daniel J. Duffy, secretary, St. Clair, of the Miners' and Laborers' Amalgamated Association, in Schuylkill County, issued a call for a convention to be held in Pottsville, on May 14, 1885, and invited Northumberland, Columbia and Carbon counties to send delegates. At the meeting of the Locust Gap branch on the evening of the 13th about two hundred of the employees of the Locust Gap collieries met and elected H. J. McCafferty delegate to the convention. From that date the organization grew rapidly in the town and on July 13, the membership became too large to be handled as one unit and each of the collieries, Locust Gap, Locust Spring, and Monitor were given a separate branch, which functioned until the collapse of the organization, February 13, 1888, as the result of the "sympathy strike" begun on the first day of January of that year.

THE UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA

The first attempt to form this organization here was on the evening of August 23, 1894, but the vaccine did not "take," and several organizations took place between that date and July 28, 1899. On this date the last organization of the union in town took place but like the M. & L. A. A., of many years before from ten to twelve determined men

had to hold it together until the strike of 1900, forced the rest to affiliate themselves with it. It is still here and active.

LABOR TROUBLES

That there were labor troubles from the date of the first employment seems to be about as true a statement as this work contains, and the greatness or smallness of the industry mattered not and it is but natural that the coal mining industry inherited the germ. The troubles about the coal mines seems to have been local, that is confined to one mine, or to those of one firm, until 1845, when the John Bates' Union tied up a number of them in Schuylkill County, for about three weeks, after which, for want of organization among the men they again became local. The first move resembling a general strike was the one inaugurated by The Workmen's Benevolent Association, which ordered a strike covering practically all of Schuylkill, Carbon and Northumberland Counties and which appears to have been highly successful as it resulted in the first general working agreement between the miners and operators involving any considerable number of each. At this date all agreements were for an indefinite period and could be terminated at will by either party upon notice to the other. The best information is that it was verbal, although this has been questioned in some quarters. This agreement held good for about two years when it was terminated by the mine owners. Then came the strike of 1871, which was ended by the adoption of the "sliding scale" method of paying wages, about the most nefarious and iniquitous a piece of business legerdemain as could be devised by an artful sharper. There having been a great deal of discussion as to the terms of this document, I will take the privilege of inserting it here.

THE SLIDING SCALE

Agreement between The Anthracite Board of Trade and The Miners' and Laborers' Benevolent Association, of January 6, 1872.

First. Wages to be fixed on the basis of \$2.50 per ton at Port Carbon, with outside labor at \$11.00 per week; day miners \$13.00 per week, and contract miners at a reduction of 8 1-3% (eight and one-third per cent) below the basis price of \$2.75 paid last year, (which was \$2.94).

Second. All advance and decline to be one (1%) per cent for every three (3c) cents advance or decline in the price of coal, with the understanding that when the prices reaches \$2.75, the price of 1871 are to be paid; Provided, That the wages shall not be below the \$2.50 basis for more than two (2) months per year, and those months shall be between April 1 and December 31, but shall not be less than the \$2.25 basis.

Third. Prices shall be obtained from a list of all the collieries shipping over The Philadelphia and Reading Railroad over thirty thousand (30,000) tons in 1871, and none shall be chosen the second time until the list is exhausted. Five operators shall be chosen by lot from this list on the first of each month, (if Sunday, the day previous, by four (4) persons; two (2) to be chosen by The Anthracite Board of Trade and two (2) by The Miners' and Laborers' Benevolent Association. The operators so chosen shall be requested to forward to each side of the committee chosen as above, on or before the 10th, a statement of all sales of coal (except pea coal) for the producing month, calculated at Port Carbon. The committee shall meet on the 10th (or if Sunday, the day previous) and announce by circular the average obtained from the statements so presented, and the wages for the current month shall be based upon the average so obtained.

For the month of January, 1872, the \$2.50 basis shall be paid.

Now that was real chummy looking, on paper at least, but it was very much more conspicuous in the breach than in the observance as the operators could make any return of their sales that they wished or was ordered and the miners' representatives had no way to check up on the truth or falsity of the statement. However faithfully the agreement may have been kept for the first three years, and there is no proof that it was honestly kept even for that length of time, but a great deal that it was not, it is a notorious fact that after the defeat of the miners in the strike of 1875, all decency was ruthlessly disregarded as to the wages to be paid. The Board of Trade, or more truthfully speaking its self-appointed officers, ruled the roost, and they did it with a mailed fist, a vicious will and a zealotry worthy a better cause. The provision of the agreement that the wages to be paid the miner should not be below the \$2.50 basis for more than two months in any year was made in practice to be not above it for the same period. Another part of the agreement was that the wages should at no time be below the \$2.25 basis, which would mean not more than ten (10%) per cent below the standard, yet in June, 1877, the wages paid was thirty (30%) per cent below the rate then prevailing which was of itself twenty (20%) per cent below the standard, that being the straight reduction imposed upon the men by the coal companies, as the penalty for the strike, and it was the threat of this reduction that brought the strike about. The general run of this mongrel from 1875 to 1902, when the basis was fixed as the minimum wage, was about as follows: Above the basis for two months, on the basis for two and below it for the other eight. The iniquity was totally wiped from the map in 1912. An illustration that came under my personal attention will better portray its workings. At the M. & L. A. A. convention at Pottsville, on May 14, 1885, the officers were instructed to quietly investigate the way the wages were being fixed. Just before the convention of June 26, of the same year, the newspapers announced that the wages for June was to be sixteen (16%) per cent below the rate being paid. The convention appointed a committee consisting of James Brennan, Shenandoah, Hugh Harkins, Park Place, and H. J. McCafferty, Locust Gap, to call on S. B. Whitting, general manager of the P. & R. C. & I. Company, which company seemed to dominate the entire situation, and lay before him the facts ascertained by the officers. After quite a lengthy talk he promised to "look into the matter and learn if an 'error' had been made." He evidently kept his word for on June 28, the same newspapers announced that "a typographical error" in a former issue made it say the wages were to be sixteen (16%) per cent below (something) when it should have read six (6%) per cent. Shades of Annanias! Munchausen!! and Tom Pepper!!! Every newspaper make the same "typographical error," in the same spot in the same article on the same day. It was somewhat modified, after this, but the miners were not given any representatives on the board, and after the strike of 1888, the operators again cut loose and ruled until 1900.

The year 1900 began a series of conflicts between the miners and operators which is noted as marking the beginning of a measure of justice for the workers. The coal corporations had been sowing the wind for twenty-five years and began to reap the whirlwind. The first step in this direction was the passage of the Miners' Certificate Law, of which Hon. Daniel F. Gallagher, Sr., whose home was in Mount Carmel, is the father, and this law alone saved the miners in the labor conflicts following 1900. Previous to 1889, the date of the Act, human life was the cheapest thing the coal corporations could buy and many

of their foremen grew wealthy selling steamship tickets and jobs to the people of Europe, but when those "foreigners" became Americanized and members of the union, and then went on strike, the barons found that the American was a docile lamb by comparison. In all the strikes between 1900 and 1923, inclusive, the miner gained something, but in the conflict of 1925, the longest strike conducted by them, they gained nothing, although an officer of this district assured them with his arm raised in awe-inspiring attitude, "Boys, boys, the check-off IS in that agreement, and the operators DON'T know it." And b' gosh, they don't seem to have found it out yet.

A SUMMARY OF THE ANTHRACITE COAL MINERS' STRIKE

1849—May 11 to June—Period of twenty-one days, the strike of the John Bates' Union; effective in Lower Schuylkill County only, resulted in defeat for the union. This union was the first organization in the United States, if not in the world.

1869—This like the first was purely local and seems to have not netted anything substantial, although it caused minor improvements in working conditions in some of the collieries. No dates are obtainable.

1872—January 1 to 6—A period of five days, under the auspices of the Miners' and Laborers' Benevolent Association, prevailed at a period of the year when the collieries were idle from natural causes and was terminated with the signing of the "sliding scale" on the latter date. It is also called the strike of 1871.

1875—January 1 to June 29—A period of one hundred and seventy-nine days, under the auspices of the same organization, is the longest miners strike, and resulted in the defeat of the union, the total disruption of the organization and a reduction of twenty (20%) per cent in their wages. This ended the \$2.50 basis rate of wages in the Anthracite region, although the term continued to be used by the operators.

1888—January 1 to February 13—A period of forty-two days. This was the "sympathy strike" of the Miners' and Laborers' Amalgamated Association with the Knights of Labor and resulted in the defeat of the union, the loss of their organization and a reduction of approximately twenty-two (22%) per cent in their wages, which at the time they were receiving over the so-called \$2.50 basis.

1900—September 12 to October 29—A period of forty-seven days, although this was not uniform throughout the entire region several of the collieries working with a reduced force for some days after the strike was inaugurated. It ended in a victory of the miners—their first, and marked a new era in the life of the hardest and most faithful body of workmen this world has ever known.

1902—May 12 to October 23—A period of one hundred sixty-five days, was the first real struggle between the miners and their employers for more than a quarter of a century and attracted the attention of the entire country. It resulted in a glorious victory for the miners and started a series of very badly needed reforms in the conduct of the mines.

1906—April 1 to May 7—A period of thirty-six days, was another victory for the men.

1909—There was no suspension of the mines during the period of negotiations.

1912—April 1 to May 20—A period of forty-nine days.

1916—As in 1909 the collieries continued operations during the negotiations.

1920—Instead of inaugurating a general strike by that name the

officers recommended the men take a "vacation." This was of various periods at different places throughout the region. President Wilson appointed a committee to settle the matter, and while the men won something they were badly duped by the chairman of the committee, who reduced the award after a night's hearty wine at a fraternal banquet.

1922—April 1 to September 11—A period of one hundred sixty-three days. It was during this conflict that President Harding threatened to cut the coal with the bayonets of the United States Army. But, believe me, that any person who depends on the coal cut by bayonets of soldiers to keep warm, will have no fear of the Japanese hell.

1923—September 1 to September 19—A period of eighteen days. It was during this conflict that Governor Gifford Pinchot, of Pennsylvania, earned the lasting gratitude of the miners and hatred of the operators by his activities in the matter.

1925—September 1 to February 18—A period of one hundred seventy days. While this is the longest strike conducted under the auspices of the United Mine Workers of America, it is the first in more than a quarter of a century that the men did not get some return for their fealty to unionism.

BIOGRAPHICA

McCafferty, Vincent J., A. B.—Oldest son of H. J. and Mary K. (Malone) McCafferty, both of whom are also natives of Locust Gap, was born in Locust Gap, July 7, 1900. He attended the parochial and public schools of his native town, graduating from the latter in 1915, after which he entered the Mount Carmel High School, taking the full academic course and graduated with the class of 1919. In September, 1918, he entered the services of the United States, as a volunteer in the World War, and was sent to Villa Nova College as a member of the United States Student Army Training Corps, from which he was discharged with the class at the end of the war. In September, 1919, he matriculated in the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, taking up the Arts and Science course, and after completing the course, he entered the field of journalism. He is at present, and has been since leaving college, with the exception of a short time spent in Ohio, been connected with The Philadelphia Record.

McCafferty, Lieut. William H. J.—The second son of the same couple, was born in Locust Gap, September 20, 1901, and received his early education in the same schools. He graduated from the Locust Gap school in 1916 and at the beginning of the next term entered the Mount Carmel High School, but at the end of the sophomore year, for reasons deemed sufficient by his parents, he left school and entered the employment of the Koffer Manufacturing Company, at Bridgeport, where he remained until he received the appointment to the United States Naval Academy. He entered upon his four years' course of study at the Academy, July 1, 1919, graduating as Ensign, June 7, 1923, and was commissioned on the same date by President Harding. After three years' service, June 7, 1926, the earliest date on which he was eligible for promotion, he successfully passed the required examination and was commissioned Lieutenant Junior Grade, the same day. He is at present with the flagship, the U. S. S. Seattle.

McDonnell, John W.—Son of Peter A. and Mary (Grathwohl) McDonnell, was born in Locust Gap, July 26, 1891, and secured his preliminary education in the Locust Gap, Mount Carmel and Sunbury schools, from the latter of which he graduated with the class of 1909. In 1915, he entered the University of Pennsylvania taking up the study of medicine, which course he completed and was graduated with the class of 1919. He is at present following his profession at Sunbury.

Carr, John I.—Son of James and Ann (McGill) Carr, was born in Locust Gap, May 28, 1875, and educated in the schools of the town. He began work at the local collieries at an early age as a slate picker, and had reached the position of chute boss, when he resigned to accept a position as a clerk in the office of Register and Recorder Frank M. Vandevender, May 10, 1904. He first entered the field of politics in 1900, when he was elected to the office of Township Auditor, which he held for three years. In 1903, he was elected school director and re-elected in 1906. In 1904, he was appointed a clerk in the Register and Recorder's Office. In 1907, he was appointed deputy by Register and Recorder Edward V. Nicely, whom he succeeded in the office in 1914, being re-elected in 1917, 1921 and 1925, a record of successes un-

equalled in the history of Northumberland County. He is still there with the latch-string and the key on the outside for all.

McManus, Francis J.—Son of James W. and Margaret (Spader) McManus, was born in Locust Gap, November 7, 1900, and educated in the parochial schools, graduating in the class of 1916. In September of that year he entered Mt. Saint Mary's College, at Emmittsburg, Md., and after three years study there entered Villa Nova College from which he graduated with the degree of A. B., June 9, 1921. He was also awarded a gold medal for Philosophy. He afterwards took post graduate courses of two years each, in the evening schools of the U. of P., and Poor Richards Club. He was connected with the staff of the Mount Carmel Item for two years after which he entered the office of the Times-Herald, at Norristown, where he is still employed.

McManus, Rev. Frank J.—Son of Patrick and Catherine (Mohan) McManus, was born in Locust Gap, November 26, 1870, and received his preliminary education in the public schools of the town and entered Mt. Saint Mary's College, at Emmittsburg, Md., in 1889 to study for the priesthood. He completed the course and was ordained on June 21, 1899, by Cardinal Gibbons, at the Cathedral in Baltimore.

Brecker, Rev. Francis J.—Son of Frank and Elizabeth (Haley) Brecker, born in Shamokin, but came here an infant when his parents moved to town. Graduated from St. Joseph's school in 1916, and entered St. Charles' Seminary, at Overbrook, to study for the priesthood. He completed the course and on June 7, 1925, was ordained by Rt. Rev. Bishop Shahan, of Washington, D. C.

Brecker, William—A son of the same couple, was born in Locust Gap, November 13, 1905, and graduated from St. Joseph's School in 1920, and entered St. Joseph's College, Callicoon, New York, the same year to study for the priesthood. He finished the five years' course there and in 1925, entered St. Vincent's College, Beatty, Penna., where he still is a student.

Duppy, William J.—Son of Henry and Winifred (Cannon) Duppy, was born in Locust Gap, July 18, 1894. Served in the United States Army, in the World War, as Corporal in Co. A, 324th M. G. B. M. After the armistice he entered the Spencerian College of Commerce and Accounts, Cleveland, Ohio, graduating in 1922, as a Certified Accountant.

Magrady, Frederick W.—Son of William and Isabelle (McConaghy) Magrady, was born in Cumbola, Pa., November 26, 1863, and moved with his parents when a child and reared here. He entered Bloomsburg State Normal School in 1888, graduating therefrom in 1891 and began to teach in Mount Carmel. Graduated from Dickinson Law School and is a practicing attorney in this county. He was elected Congressman from the Seventeenth Pennsylvania District in 1924 and re-elected in 1926.

Lewis, William—Son of Henry and Amelia (Dyke) Lewis, was born at Girardville, Pa., December 30, 1903. Graduated from the Mount Carmel Township High School in 1919, from Mount Carmel High School in

1923, and from the University of Pennsylvania, receiving his diploma as a Doctor of Medicine on June 15, 1927. Three full course graduations in eight years is going some, is it not?

McGee, Rev. Patrick F.—Son of John and Catherine (McBride) McGee, was born in Locust Gap, June 3, 1888, graduated from St. Joseph's School in 1903, and entered St. Charles' Seminary, Overbrook, to study theology. Completed the course and was ordained to the priesthood of the Roman Catholic Church, December 14, 1912, by Bishop McCort, in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Philadelphia. He was commissioned First Lieutenant Chaplain in the United States Army, July 20, 1918. He is at present pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Dallastown, Penna.

Schweich, Rev. Joseph J.—Son of Matthias and Christine (Loerscher) Schweich, was born in Locust Gap, May 5, 1896, and graduated from St. Joseph's School in 1912, and entered St. Charles' Seminary the same year. He was transferred to St. Vincent's Seminary in 1920, graduated and was ordained to the Priesthood in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Harrisburg, by Rt. Rev. Bishop Philip R. McDevitt, June 5, 1922, and is at present curate at Mt. Sary's Church, York, Penna.

Bittenbender, Rev. Herman J.—Son of Herman and Catherine (Shannon) Bittenbender, was born in Locust Gap, October 21, 1900, and graduated from St. Joseph's school in 1915. He studied five years at St. Joseph's College, Callicoon, N. Y.; entered St. Bonaventure Monastery, Patterson, N. J., in 1921; later in the same year was transferred to the Franciscan Monastery, Crogan, N. Y., and in 1923, returned to St. Bonaventure's where he is at present. His religious name is Father Celestine, O. F. M., D. A., M. A. He will receive full clerical orders this year.

Whalen, Rev. William W.—Son of Michael J. and Alice (Debo) Whalen, was born in Green Ridge, (Strong), May 7, 1882, and reared in Locust Gap. He graduated from the local schools and entered St. Charles College, Ellicot, Md., in 1901, and St. Charles' Seminary, Overbrook, Penna., in 1906, and Mt. St. Mary's Seminary, Emmittsburg, Md., in 1908. He was ordained to the priesthood by Rt. Rev. Bishop Edward P. Allen, Mobile, Ala., June 13, 1911, and is at present pastor of the Old Jesuit Mission, Orrtanna, Penna. Father Whalen is an author of note and his books depict real life, chiefly in the coal regions, which he delights to refer to as "home" and I exceedingly regret that space prevents me giving a former pupil of my school the mention he deserves and I would desire to give.

Cannon, John F. Jr.—Son of John F. and Bridget (Earley) Cannon, was born in Locust Gap, November 22, 1897, and graduated from St. Joseph's School in 1912, and from the Mt. Carmel High School in 1916, and entered Cornell University, taking a course in finance. In 1918, he was commissioned Lieutenant of Infantry in the World War and after his discharge at the end of the war, re-entered Cornell and graduated with the degree of B. A., in 1921. He is at present in the employ of the National City Bank, of New York in the foreign service.

Bosche, Leo—Son of John and Madeline (Theobald) Bosche was born in Locust Gap, July 13, 1892, and attended the local schools. When

quite young he went to Philadelphia and is now the manager of a chain of meat stores.

Spader, Philip J.—Son of Jacob and Anna (Leshner) Spader, was born in Locust Gap, March 19, 1880, and after finishing the courses in the local schools, entered St. Vincent's College, Beatty, Pa., in 1897, and then Villa Nova College in 1899. He afterwards entered the Maryland University from which he graduated as a Doctor of Medicine in 1907. He is at present practicing his profession at York, Penna.

Ruane, John—Son of Thomas and Rose (Reilly) Ruane, was born in Utica, N. Y., July 20, 1907, and on the death of his mother when he was a mere child, came to Locust Gap, and made his home with his aunt, Mrs. F. J. McDonnell since that time. In 1923, he graduated from St. Joseph's school and entered Mt. St. Mary's College, at Emmittsburg, Md., and in 1924, entered the Georgetown University where he is taking the course of finance and law. He will graduate in 1928.

Boyle, Rev. William A.—Son of John and Mary (Noble) Boyle, was born in Locust Gap, April 18, 1894, and received his early education in Saint Joseph's Parochial School, from which he graduated with the highest honors in the class of 1908. In September, 1910, he entered Saint Charles Borromeo College, at Overbrook, Penna., to study for his calling, graduating therefrom on June 8, 1919, and on the same day he was ordained to the Holy Priesthood by Rt. Rev. Dennis Cardinal Dougherty, of Philadelphia, and assigned to the Harrisburg Diocese. He is at present serving as curate in St. Ignatius Church, Centralia.

Cannon, Joseph D.—Son of John and Bridget (Earley) Cannon was born in Locust Gap, October 26, 1871, and after attending school for several years, began his manual labor, as the rest of us did, as a slatepicker in the breaker. In 1898, he went to California and thence to Montana, Wyoming and Arizona, where he became affiliated with the Federation of Labor and in 1914, was assigned to New York City where he still is located.

McCarthy, Ambrose L.—Son of Michael A. and Anna (Kearney) McCarthy, was born in Locust Gap, January 4, 1889, and received his early education in Saint Joseph's parochial school in his native town and completed it in the public schools of Mount Carmel Borough, to which place the family removed in 1900. After leaving school, he took a course in civil engineering with the International Correspondence Schools, of Scranton, and upon the completion of the course he secured December 5, 1911, an appointment as engineer of road construction with the State Highway Department of Pennsylvania, with headquarters at Harrisburg, which position he held continuously until his too early death, in the Capital City, December 6, 1922.

McCarthy, M. Clarence—Also a son of the same couple, was born in Locust Gap, April 25, 1892, receiving his primary education in the same schools as his brother and completed them in the public schools of Shamokin borough, where the family had taken up their residence in 1904. After his graduation, he entered the employ of the United Gas Improvement Company at Philadelphia, where he remained for four years, when he returned to Shamokin, and entered the employ of J. C.

Taby and Company, in whose service he remained until April 18, 1927, when he purchased the controlling interest in the Trevorton Hardware Company, of which he is at present the manager. Clarence takes great pride, and loses no opportunity to relate that every member of his class in Saint Joseph's School, amongst whom was the Rev. Dennis P. Reardon, another Locust Gap boy, made good after their graduation.

Cain, John J.—Son of James and Mary (Sweeney) Cain, was born in Centralia, March 11, 1892, and almost immediately insisted that his parents remove to Locust Gap, where John grew to manhood, and I mean manhood. He received his education in Saint Joseph's Parochial School. While in school, he accepted the agency of the Philadelphia and New York dailies, and the citizens enjoyed the first real service in this line. After leaving school he entered the office of the Locust Gap colliery and soon worked himself up to the management of the supply store house at the Alaska colliery. He entered the University of Chicago where he took a course in finance, and upon his graduation he was elected to the position of cashier in the National Bank, Kansas City, Missouri, which position he still holds.

Other boys who were born in Locust Gap or who came within our sacred precincts and inherited our good qualities, and went out into the world and made good, but of whom I could not secure the detailed information to include them amongst the above, are:

Priests—Revs. Anthony J. Breslin, who died in Mount Carmel in 1885; Frank J. Regnary, John J. Regnary, both of Philadelphia, Dennis P. Reardon, Harrisburg, Pa., Patrick W. Harvey, Kansas City, Mo.

Divinity Clerical Student—Leo G. Reichwein.

Physicians—Edward C. Crowe, Philadelphia, John Evans, Baltimore, Joseph Brecker, Philadelphia.

Medical Student—Joseph Melody.

Attorneys at Law—Frank S. McHugh and William Kelly, both of Chicago.

Civil and Mining Engineers—Thomas Dawson, who has recently been elected a vice-president of the H. C. Frick Coke Company, Scottsdale; Haven Dawson, Hastings, Pa.

Miscellaneous—James F. Collier, superintendent Prudential Insurance Company, Williamsport, Pa., District; William Kellagher, State Manager Uneeda Biscuit Company, St. Louis, Mo.; Francis Donnelly, clerk, Philadelphia, Pa.; John Burgund, bookkeeper, Cleveland Steel Mills, Cleveland, Ohio; James F. Hazel, chief clerk, Norfolk and Western Railroad, Norfolk, Va.

Postmasters at Locust Gap with the date of their appointments: Conrad F. Ryer, February 4, 1870; Francis McCarty, February 14, 1871; Michael A. McCarty, November 17, 1887; John E. McHugh, May 5, 1900; Henry J. Maier, December 13, 1919, present incumbent.

Philadelphia and Reading Station Agents—Charles Kirk, 1872; Michael B. Donlan, 1874; Thomas J. Donlan, 1879; George J. Higgins, 1888; A. E. Sweigard, 1890; John A. Tucker, 1891; William E. Quirk, 1898; William H. Bradley, Jr., 1905; H. E. Heidenreich, 1912; William E. Driesbach, 1913; John J. Francis, 1918, the present incumbent.

Registered Trained Nurses—Laura McHugh, Agnes B. Cannon, Stella Langton, Isabelle O'Neill, Margaret O'Brien, Anna Breslin, Mary Walters, Elizabeth Kane, Alma Beierschmitt, Mary Kane, Marie Fickinger, Elizabeth Sebastian, Susan Sebastian, Margaret Omlor, Anna

Farrell, Isabella McKeown, Elizabeth Cress, Marcella Dormer and Anna Byole.

LOCUST GAP'S VETERANS IN THE WORLD WAR

The following residents of Locust Gap were in the service of their country during the World War, but I incline, from memory, to say that there are two names omitted, which I have been unable to secure, although I have made every effort to do so. This is a larger percentage of the population than any other town in this vicinity:

Alvord, William J., Berger, Aloysius, Berger, Richard B., Blase, Frederick I., Bolich, Earl, Bolich, Lewis, Bolich, Nathan, Bosche, Leo, Boyle, Aloysius, Boyle, John J., Boyle, Raymond, Boyle, Robert, Brown, John J., Cannon, John F. Jr., Curley, Cormack, Curley, Herbert, Delaney, Michael J. Jr., Delaney, Patrick J., Donnelly, Charles M., Donnelly, Eugene A., Doyle, Henry V., Doyle, James J., Doyle, Richard J., Duppy, William, Earley, Francis, Gallagher, John T., Gibbons, Vincent, Gordon, James Jr., Hogarty, John J., Horan, Michael R., Horan, Thomas, Hummell, Alvin, Kane, James W., Long, Freeman, McAndrew, Edward, McCafferty, Vincent J., McGee, James A., McGee, Rev. Patrick F., McGinn, Edward T., McGin, John F., McGinn, John J., McHugh, Herbert J., McHugh, Laura, (nurse), McHugh, Robert J., McKeown, Hubert, Manley, Charles, Manley, Cormack, Marchetti, Anthony, Melody, Matthew, Mintzer, Frank, Mintzer, William, Moore, James P., Moore, Raymond, Moore, Thomas, Moraski, Michael, O'Brien, William F., O'Connor, Charles, O'Donnell, Daniel A., Omlor, Leo, Omlor, Raymond, Omlor, William, Ruane, James, Schober, John, Sebastian, Jacob P., Sebastian, Nicholas Jr., Sebastian, Nicholas Sr., Shutt, Lewis, Thurick, James, Walsh, Thomas P., Whalen, Albert, Whalen, Joseph F. Whalen, Thomas, Whyne, Aaron.

CHRONOLOGICAL RECAPITULATION

1826—September 29, Hannah, a daughter of Abraham and Mary (Snyder) Deppen, was born. She was the first child born in Locust Gap.

1826—The first marriage in Locust Gap was Martha Yocum to Thomas Bohner, "sometime around Christmas," to use the words of my informant. The officiating clergyman came from Herndon to perform the ceremony.

1826—The first house in Locust Gap built by Abraham Deppen, of Herndon, near what is now known as Locust Gap Junction. About twenty-five houses were built during that year and the following.

1827—The name of Little Shamokin Creek changed to Locust Creek, in a spirit of malice on account of a pest of that insect during the summer.

1832—The first industry in the town, a saw-mill, was erected by Samuel, William and Joseph Casper, of Sunbury, on Big Shamokin Creek, about three hundred yards north of the present Locust Gap Junction station on the Pennsylvania Railroad.

1834—On Monday, March 3, the lumber for the first house built in the present borough of Shamokin, was prepared at this Locust Gap mill by Ziba Bird, who had purchased the mill. This house was erected by and for Mr. Bird and his family.

1835—The first "coal mine" in town was opened at the eastern end of Shamokin Mountain, near the gap between Shamokin and Locust Mountains.

1836—The Mine Hill and Schuylkill Haven Railroads was completed through to the Locust Gap of that time, but which is now known as Locust Gap Junction. It had been extended to a point just south of Locust Dale the previous year. The line was leased and taken over by the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company on May 12, 1864. While an official passenger train, carrying only officials and some friends as guests, was run over the road on Thursday, October 18, 1860, the first real "passenger" train on the line was a train of troops en route to the front late in 1863, and regular passenger train service was inaugurated on Monday, August 6, 1866. It is now used principally as a storage yard for the coal cars of the latter company for which they have no immediate use.

1841—The first school house in Locust Gap of that day was erected by Coal Township of which it was then a part.

1850—The first school house in the Locust Gap, of today, was erected by the same district, at a point just west of where the Thomas Joyce homestead now is located.

1851—The Roman Catholics of Locust Gap were organized as a congregation and was made a mission of Saint Michael's Church, Danville by the Rev. Michael Sheridan, the pastor.

1855—The Locust Summit and the Locust Gap No. 1 mines were opened and the breakers, known to our people as the "twin breakers" built, at the gap between Shamokin and Locust Mountains.

1860—October 18, the first official passenger train through the town was run over the Mine Hill and Schuylkill Haven Railroad from Philadelphia to Sunbury. It carried only officials of the road.

1860—The public road was opened from Locust Gap to Ashland.

1861—The first Locust Spring school built near the base of the "Indian Rocks."

1862—The Creek Colliery, now known as the Locust Spring Colliery, was opened. It was also known in its time as the Spring Creek and Locust Spring Creek Colliery.

1863—The A. S. Wolfe colliery was opened near the present site of the Philadelphia and Reading Railway station.

1864—May 12, the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company leased and took over the control of the Mine Hill and Schuylkill Haven Railroad.

1865—The Primitive Methodist Church, known to our people as "The Stone Church," was completed and occupied for service for the first time on "Watch Night," December 31.

1866—September 9, Locust Gap was detached from Saint Michael's Church, Danville, and attached to Saint Edward's, Shamokin.

1866—August 6, regular passenger service was inaugurated on the Mine Hill and Schuylkill Haven Railroad.

1868—The first Locust Gap Cornet Band was organized. (Date not obtainable.)

1868—The main line of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad through Locust Gap to Shamokin, was constructed. Extended to Muncy, 1882-3.

1869—January 30, the Primitive Methodist Church was dissolved and the edifice abandoned.

1869—The Monitor Colliery, which had been begun the previous year by Richard B. Douty, of Shamokin, began operations, with Heim, Beck and Ryer, as operators.

1870—February 4, Conrad F. Ryer, the first postmaster at Locust

Gap, was appointed by President Grant, and served in that position until February 14, 1871. He conducted a general store in the building now occupied by William F. Haley, Sr., during his incumbency of the office.

1870—The Monitor Colliery was purchased by George W. and William Johns, of Saint Clair, and operated by them for about twenty-five years.

1871—February 14, Francis McCarthy appointed postmaster at Locust Gap, serving until his death, November 6, 1887.

1871—March 31, the Locust Gap No. 1 and the Locust Summit, known as the "Twin Breakers," destroyed by fire.

1871—The public road to Helfenstein was built.

1872—January 1, the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad station, in town, opened with Charles Kirk, of Port Carbon, as agent.

1872—January 6, the "sliding scale" method of paying the wages of the employes of the collieries, was signed by the representatives of the Anthracite Board of Trade and the Miners' and Laborers' Benevolent Association, at Pottsville, and continued in some form until 1912.

1872—March 17, Saint Patrick's Total Abstinence Society organized.

1872—Saint Joseph's Beneficial Society organized. (Date not obtainable.)

1873—The north-east corner of the Primitive Methodist Church, known as "The Stone Church," collapsed. This was caused by the washing away of the earth by the waters of Locust Creek.

1873—The school building, known as the "Red School" at the western end of Church street, erected.

1874—April 12, the Locust Gap Methodist Sunday School organized.

1874—June 4, the bell hoisted to the belfry of Saint Joseph's Church.

1874—Mob stormed Saint Mary's cemetery at Beavertdale, and buried William Dooley against the wishes of Rev. Father Koch.

1875—January 1, the Miners' and Laborers' Benevolent Association went on strike against a cut of twenty (20%) per cent in their wages. (Propaganda has been released during the past year stating that the proposed cut was only ten (10%) per cent. "Only," if any one asks you). The strike lasted until June 29, a period of one hundred and seventy-nine days, the longest strike of the Anthracite miners on record. This claim has been made by the United Mine Workers for the strike of September 1, 1925 to February 17, 1926, but is not true. The former has it beaten by nine days.

1875—March 31, a coal train enroute from Shamokin to Locust Summit with 'blackleg' coal from the former village, was stopped, stoned and the crew fired upon by a mob at the western end of the town. Several arrests were made two years later for the offense but all bills of indictment were ignored by county grand jury to which they were submitted.

1875—October 5, the breaker of the Locust Gap colliery, No. 2, was destroyed by fire which broke out after 10:00 o'clock p. m.

1875—The winter of 1875-76 was the first winter the collieries were operated during the winter months. Heretofore it had been customary, in fact obligatory, to close them from the middle of December until the middle of March on account of the canals being drained to prevent freezing, for water left out in the cold will go to sleep, regardless of the prominence of the owner.

1877—The first county bridge, a wooden structure, over the Mine Hill and Schuylkill Haven Railroad and the Locust Creek begun. It

was completed and opened for traffic the following year.

1877—The wages paid under the sliding scale, which was kept in force by the coal operators, for the month of June were thirty (30%) per cent below the so-called \$2.50 basis, but which in reality was a \$2.00 basis.

1878—Dr. George W. Bealer, of Hebe, this county, opened an office in the McCarthy building opposite the P. & R. railway station. He was the first physician to settle in the town.

1878—Saint Joseph's congregation, heretofore a mission of Saint Edward's, Shamokin, became a separate parish, with Rev. Clement A. Schleuter as pastor, October 13.

1878—November 11, Martin and John Murray, brothers, and James McHugh, were killed on the bottom of the Locust Spring colliery slope by a car which had come down, caused by the breaking of the center hook, by which the cars were being hoisted.

1878—March 12, fire broke out about 10:00 o'clock p. m., at the bottom of the Locust Gap Colliery slope, doing much damage. The eight men in the mine at the time escaped without injury.

1879—The engine house at the hoisting slope of the Locust Spring Colliery was destroyed by fire.

1879—Saint Joseph's Roman Catholic cemetery was opened.

1880—January 2, the Locust Gap Methodist Sunday School changed its name to that of Locust Gap Union Sunday School, on account of the number of communicants of other denominations that were attending its services.

1880—February 26, the Locust Summit school destroyed by fire. It was located near the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad station.

1881—March 6, the Locust Gap Methodist Sunday School resumed its original name.

1881—April 17, the Locust Gap Methodist Sunday School disbanded because of the falling off of its membership occasioned by the action of March 6.

1881—November 8, Michael Kellagher, the first resident of Locust Gap to be chosen to a county office was elected County Commissioner. He was re-elected in 1884.

1882—September 10, Rev. Thomas J. Fleming became pastor of Saint Joseph's Church.

1883—George W. Stroup, of Shamokin, opened the first drug store in the building formerly used as an office for Graeber, Kemble & Shepp, coal operators. By this statement, I mean the first drug store conducted independently of a physician's office. The physicians, who had opened offices here, conducted a drug store in connection therewith.

1883—February 1, the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company took over the Locust Gap No. 2 colliery from Graeber, Kemball and Shepp.

1883—The Father Flemming Literary Society organized with A. N. Metzinger, president; James A. McCarthy, secretary, and Michael A. McCarthy, treasurer. It was disbanded in 1887.

1883—April 8, the explosion of a steam boiler in the boiler room of the Locust Spring Colliery, resulted in the fatal injury of John Noble, the fireman, and the serious injury of a boy named Charles Richmond, son of the foreman.

1885—August 5, the Saint John's Evangelical Church, organized with Lewis Karbley and Frederick Yentsch, elders, Henry Carl, Benja-

min Thomas and Gideon Fertig, deacons. It disbanded early the following year.

1885—March 24, the Merriam breaker destroyed by fire.

1886—Saturday, June 12, the first Alaska breaker destroyed by fire.

1887—Saint Joseph's Roman Catholic convent erected.

1887—November 17, Michael A. McCarthy was appointed postmaster at Locust Gap.

1888—January 1, the Miners' and Laborers' Amalgamated Association went out on their "sympathy strike" with the Knights of Labor. They went back beaten, on Monday February 13, with the loss of their organization and about twenty-two (22%) per cent in wages.

1888—February 10, the coldest day on record.

1888—Sunday, February 26, Saint Joseph's convent destroyed by fire, 8:30 o'clock a. m.

1888—March 11 and 12, the most severe blizzard that ever visited this section raged throughout the region. This is spoken of by the people and the press as "The Blizzard" when recalling storms of the past in this section of the United States.

1888—May 5, an explosion of a car of dynamite in a freight train passing through here on the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, at 10:05 o'clock p. m., at the western end of town, caused six deaths, the total destruction of twenty houses and more or less damage to almost every other building in the village. It was caused by the collision of two sections of the train which had been "cut," to use a railroad parlance, for the purpose of making a "flying switch" at the Alaska siding.

1888—May 13, Division No. 2, Ancient Order of Hibernians of Northumberland County, organized at Locust Gap, by County Delegate Anthony Walsh, of Mount Carmel.

1889—The Philadelphia and Reading Railroad double tracked their line through here to Snyderstown.

1891—April 1, the Saint Joseph's Literary Society organized by Rev. William J. Burke, pastor of Saint Joseph's Church. It soon disbanded.

1894—May 20, fire broke out in the breaker engine house of the Locust Gap colliery which was extinguished by a bucket brigade with but small damage. The fire started about 11:00 o'clock a. m., when almost the entire adult population of the town were attending Mass in Saint Joseph's Church.

1894—An unsuccessful attempt was made to oust the Locust Gap Union Sunday School from the use of the Locust Spring school house for services. The entire Catholic membership of the School Board positively refused to support the movement and it fell through.

1894—August 5, German Beneficial Society formed.

1895—A fire, originating in the house of Postmaster Michael A. McCarthy, about 1:00 o'clock p. m., destroyed fourteen dwelling houses, a hotel and a store.

1895—November 12, the Young Men's Literary Club organized. Disbanded in 1923, when deprived of their quarters, because they became an intolerable —?— society.

1895—The Monitor Colliery taken over by the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company.

1896—September 29, an unusually severe wind storm swept over the section doing much damage to many homes in the town.

1897—On the morning of Friday, May 21, Locust Gap Cornet Band Hall destroyed by fire. There had been a social gathering in the hall

the previous evening.

1899—September 11, the school board of Mount Carmel Township was removed from office by decree of President Judge C. R. Savidge, for failure to complete the legal annual organization required by the school law. They were deadlocked on the election of a treasurer and the selection of the teachers. The directors removed were James Bache, Hugh Dolan, Michael Manley, Edward McHugh, Isaac Hall and Matthew Dormar. The Court at once appointed Michael Kellagher, Henry J. Maier, John E. McHugh, James Haffey, Joseph Beierschmitt and Christian Veith to serve until the following election. Action to remove the board was begun in 1878, but failed; in 1895, the board appeared before the Court and requested their own removal but the matter was amicably adjusted. In all cases the cause was the same.

1899—November 7, James A. McCarthy, the first native of Locust Gap to be elected to a county office, was elected Prothonotary and Clerk of the Courts; he was re-elected in 1902.

1899—Monitor Colliery was abandoned and the breaker dismantled.

1900—May 5, John E. McHugh, was appointed postmaster.

1900—January 15, the Locust Spring Colliery shaft begun.

1900—Monday, July 9, the new Locust Gap colliery breaker, which is generally called the Locust Spring, begun operations and the old Locust Gap No. 2 and the Locust Spring breakers were abandoned and soon after dismantled.

1901—January 20, Saint Joseph's Holy Name Society was organized under the auspices of Rev. Arthur J. McCann, the pastor, with Bernard E. Cannon, Sr., president; Michael H. O'Neill, recording secretary; Charles Fickinger, financial secretary, and Edward McGinn, treasurer. Messrs. Cannon and Fickinger are still holding the same office to which they were elected that day. This was the first Holy Name Society in the Harrisburg Diocese.

1902—December 29, Court Roger Brooke Taney, No. 281, Foresters of America instituted by Grand Chief Ranger of Pennsylvania, Joseph P. Bradley, Philadelphia.

1904—May 5, fire in the airway of the Locust Gap colliery slope, which started about 10:30 p. m., resulted in the loss of five lives, Michael and John Boylan, brothers, Michael Shannon, John Debo and John Krashinski, and the idleness of the colliery for more than a year. The bodies were found as follows: John Debo, March 2; John Krashinski, March 13; Michael Boylan, June 4; John Boylan and Michael Shannon, June 14.

1905—Saint Joseph's Hall erected by Rev. Arthur J. McCann.

1905—November 7, Martin McLaughlin, a resident of Locust Gap, was elected Mine Inspector, and assigned to the Sixteenth District, with headquarters at Shamokin. He was re-elected in 1908, and died an incumbent of the office in 1909.

1905—June 23, Locust Gap Social Club Hall destroyed by fire.

1907—August 16, Locust Gap Fire Company organized.

1907—October 29, Locust Gap Fire Company home dedicated.

1908—The county bridge, erected in 1876, was replaced by an iron structure.

1909—Saturday, November 6, the Mount Carmel-Locust Gap trolley line officially opened. The car leaving Mount Carmel at 9:00 o'clock a. m., reaching Locust Gap at 9:12. The first regular passenger car on the line left Mount Carmel at 10:00 o'clock a. m. of the same day.

1909—Wednesday, July 7, fire was discovered in a breast at the

Locust Spring colliery slope, No. 1, causing an idleness in that part of the mine for nearly one year.

1911—July 11, a severe rain and hail storm swept over this section about 4:00 o'clock p. m. Much of the hail was placed in refrigerators in town on Saturday afternoon.

1913—November 4, John I. Carr, a native of the town, was elected Register of Wills and Recorder of Deeds, of Northumberland County and re-elected in 1917, 1921 and 1925.

1914—Work on the erection of the Locust Gap Union Church begun in September.

1915—February 14, the Locust Gap Union Church was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies.

1919—December 13, Henry J. Maier appointed postmaster.

1922—April 1 to September 11, a strike of the Anthracite miners.

1924—November 4, Frederick W. Magrady, the first Locust Gap boy to be elected to make laws for all of us, chosen Congressman from the Seventeenth Pennsylvania District and re-elected in 1926.

1925—September 1 to February 18, a strike of the Anthracite miners.

1926—April 17, the Alaska breaker destroyed by fire for the second time.

1910—Monday, September 26, the streets were lighted for the first time. The lighting being done by the Edison Electric Illuminating Company, of Mount Carmel, now a branch of the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company. This was made possible by an Act of Assembly in 1909, sponsored by Hon. Thomas R. Williams, of Mount Carmel, who was a member of that Assembly.

1919—April 13, John Burgund killed by the explosion of a steam boiler at the Locust Gap colliery.

1869—On Appomattox Day, April 9, the Washington Rifles, a military company was organized by Sergeant John McEliece, a veteran of the Civil War, who was elected captain, a position to which he was unanimously re-elected during the entire time the company was in existence. On July 17, 1869, the Washington Rifles was made a part of the Pennsylvania Militia, as the State military force was then known, and assigned to the Eighth Division. By an Act of Assembly of April 7, 1870, the name of the Pennsylvania Militia was changed to that of the National Guard of Pennsylvania, and the following extract from the records of the Adjutant General's office, at Harrisburg, will enable the reader to follow it: "Washington Rifles, (Locust Gap), Eighth Division, Pennsylvania Militia, assigned to the Seventh Regiment Infantry, as Company A, Fourth Division, National Guard of Pennsylvania, (per paragraph 2, General Order number 2, Adjutant General's Office, s. 1874), June 30, 1874."

When the coal train on the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad enroute from Shamokin to Locust Summit, was stoned on Wednesday, March 31, 1875, mention of which will be found in its proper place in this chronology, John McEliece, the captain of the Military Company, took charge of the train, after the flight of the crew, and piloted it to its destination. This aroused the ire of many and dissatisfaction at once became manifest as the men were on strike against a reduction in wages. It soon became evident that the ill-feeling could not be assuaged, and the following, also from the records quoted above, will explain all: "The resignation of the three officers of Company A, Seventh Regiment Infantry, National Guard of Pennsylvania, having been

accepted, they were Honorably Discharged and the Company disbanded, (per Special Order Number 14, Adjutant General's Office, s. 1875), April 7, 1875."

It will be seen from the above official data that the generally current rumor, which has been accepted by our people, that the Company was disbanded for disloyalty, in refusing to mobilize at Pittsburgh, July 19, 1877, to assist in suppressing the Railroad Riot then raging in that city, in response to the orders of their superior officers, has no standing whatever. The people of Locust Gap are not disloyal, and never have been, to any properly constituted authority, civil or religious, in anything constitutional and lawful.

1871—The new station of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company, which was nearing completion, was swallowed up by a cave-in of a portion of the A. S. Wolfe mine. The construction of one to replace it was at once begun about fifty yards farther west and still stands.

1879—Wednesday, July 9, a row of dwellings, consisting of eight residences, at the extreme end of Church street, known as "The Shanty Row," was destroyed by fire.

1888—During the last week of April, of this year, the population of Locust Gap, was 2143, believed to be the highest point it has ever attained.

1890—Saturday, December 6, the first issue of the Locust Gap Local, the only newspaper enterprise undertaken in the town, was issued by Frederick W. and James A. Magrady. It continued for about four and one-half years, when it was suspended.

1891—The work of installing a water line through the town was begun by the Bear Gap Water Company, of Shamokin, in May and the line was completed in November. Water was first pumped through the line on Monday, November 9. The water is furnished our people through the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company, who own all the houses in the village, there being but twenty individual meters, at this writing. The water is pumped from Roaring Creek to a reservoir on the top of Little Mountain, 780 feet above the creek.

1925—The Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company completed a water line from their reservoir, at Gordon, to the Locust Gap colliery, which is intended to supply their collieries in this vicinity, but up to the present time this has only been used in emergencies. It is rumored that in the very near future this line will be extended to all the collieries of that corporation in Northumberland County. If it will give us a more adequate supply of the fluid with which to fight fires, it will be gladly hailed.

1927—Sunday, August 7, the first field mass in the history of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg, was solemnized on the athletic field near the high school, as the opening ceremony of the Old Home Week celebration which the people of Locust Gap observed, in commemoration of the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of their town. Rev. John A. Mahony, pastor of Saint Joseph's Church, Locust Gap, was the Celebrant; Rev. William A. Boyle, assistant pastor of Saint Ignatius Church, Centralia, Deacon; Rev. Joseph Schweich, assistant pastor at Saint Mary's Church, York, Sub-Deacon, and Rev. Charles Tighe, assistant pastor at Saint Joseph's Church, Locust Gap, Master of Ceremonies. Revs. Frank J. McManus, Locust Gap, home on sick leave, and Francis J. Brecker, assistant pastor at Saint Mauritius' Church at Ashland, was in the Sanctuary, as was William J. Brecker, a

divinity student at Beatty, Penna. Revs. McManus, Boyle, Schweick and the Brecker boys are natives of our town. Revs. William W. Whalen, Saint Joseph's, Orrtanna, Patrick F. McGee, Saint Joseph's, Dallas-town, and Dennis P. Reardon, Saint Patrick's Harrisburg, also Locust Gap sons, were prevented by their duties to their church and congregations from being present at the services, but their hearts were with us, and they were during the week. It is estimated that more than eight thousand persons attended at the Mass.

1863-4—During the winter of those years, Locust Gap was visited by the only small-pox epidemic in her history, of which I have been able to get any authentic information. It is said that about fifty cases developed, about twenty of which resulted fatally.

1871—This year will always be remembered by our people for the descent upon us of the "Huckleberry Miners" from Schuylkill County. Two explanations of the name are given. One explanation has it that the crop of this fruit failed in the vicinity of Saint Clair and obliged the folks to seek more promising pastures; the other is that upon their arrival here they, as miners, proved themselves to be darn good huckleberry pickers.

1880—It was during the summer of this year that our town suffered from the most extended drouth in her history. From June 19 until well into the middle of November, no rain fell in this vicinity. The people were obliged to carry water from the springs on the mountains surrounding the town and as far away as Locust Gap Junction and Locust Summit. In addition they were forced to sit by the springs the entire day and night that they might secure what little water did ooze through.

1906—It was at the Primary election of this year that Locust Gap broke from her moorings, for the first and only time, up to this writing, in an age-long and honorable custom. Our people have never failed to give an overwhelming, if not an unanimous, support to any of her citizens for County or State office, but in this year, Sam Hollister, a resident of town, and the only one from the place a candidate, who sought the Democratic nomination for the General Assembly, ran fifth in a field of six, with three to be nominated.





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